Life and Work of the People of England

Dorothy Hartley &
Margaret M. Elliot

The Fourteenth Century

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By DOROTHY HARTLEY and MARGARET M. ELLIOT

LIFE AND WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF ENGLAND

THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY
THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY
THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY
THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

In Preparation:

THE CONQUEST TO 1300
THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

THREE NOBLES AND TWO MONKS. THE KING ON THE RIGHT IS PICKING A BONE WITH DIGNIFIED ENJOYMENT.

B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

LIFE AND WORK
OF THE
PEOPLE OF ENGLAND

A PICTORIAL RECORD
FROM CONTEMPORARY SOURCES

The Fourteenth Century

BY

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With 230 Illustrations

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS
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1929

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PREFACE

THE object of this series is to give a view of the Social life of each century through the eyes of the people who lived in it. We have tried to select records suitable for general and school use, which has meant examining some thousands of MSS., prints, drawings, and reference books, and only by careful selection and elimination could the results be condensed into an inexpensive series.

A general introduction outlines the characteristics of the century, and a series of notes gives points of detail. The eighty-one plates comprise 230 pictures covering the main departments of human life.

A good proportion of subjects have to appear as quite small illustrations because they are reproduced from little miniatures, as it is not always possible to obtain illuminations of large groups of figures. Some of these tiny miniatures are of extreme delicacy, and it is hoped that they will depict social life in an interesting way. It has been thought better to retain the characteristic diaper borders, as much of the effect would have been lost, had they been eliminated. The same applies to fronds, foliage and scroll-work, and it is believed that children will easily grasp the illuminators' methods.

From opinions received we think that the illustrations

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from the contemporary graphic art of the period treated have been of value and interest to a number of persons; but it appears that many teachers are not sympathetic to these contemporary representations. We cannot help feeling that contemporary pictures represent the life of a period in a manner unsurpassed for vivid interpretation, graphic power, and wealth of detail, with greater artistic vigour and value than modern transcripts, and teachers might well accustom themselves to enjoy and use them. A few re-drawings have been included as supplemental to or further explanatory of some of the MS. pictures, most of which are given as well for comparison. Scenes involving architecture and apparatus are also suitable for modern rendering, as in the spirited Castle Siege, for which we have to thank Mr. George Kruger Gray.

The advisability for teachers to become intimately acquainted with the periods they teach has been emphasised by a recent trenchant report of an Inspector on History Teaching which received some publicity at the time. We do not necessarily point to our own series as the remedy; we would rather simply asseverate that these are the lines upon which we have been working for some years, and that a closer knowledge of the background to historical events is what we have sought to stimulate.

This volume is exactly parallel to the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries already published. We have been able to get a number of subjects illustrated through the three centuries; among these are Baking, Bee-keeping,

Glass-making, the Baby Carriage, Blood Letting, and the delightful Birth scenes. We have in this volume included briefly the sources of the engravings or MSS.

As in the case of the first two centuries published, it is necessary to use subjects from neighbouring countries of north-western Europe; in this we follow the practice of the best writers on historical periods. It must be emphasised that England's contribution to the graphic arts before the nineteenth century was so slight as to render it impossible to give a representative collection from pictures produced in these little islands alone.

To the courtesy of the Earl of Leicester is due the inclusion of several subjects from a Pictorial Bible MS. at Holkham House.

As before, we should like to express our deep indebtedness to the authorities of the British Museum, especially the Manuscript Room staff. We are also extremely grateful to the Library and Print Room of the Victoria and Albert Museum; to the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the Cambridge Libraries; to the Oxford University Press, for permission to reproduce the fourteenth century music; and to Mr. Harry Batsford, our publisher, for his unfailing interest and help.

D. R. H.
M. M. E.

July, 1928.

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LIST OF SOME OF THE SOURCES USED FOR THE INTRODUCTION TO THIS VOLUME—1300–1400

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Life and Work of the People of England in the Fourteenth Century

Introductory Note

COMPARED with our own times, the fourteenth century is an age of romance, but we must not allow ourselves to be blind to the ordinary realities of its life, the good and the evil things that people did and suffered in its days. Froissart and other chroniclers have left us glowing pictures of valiant knights and their deeds so attractive that we often forget the ordinary middle class folk altogether. Yet it was this middle class and the "lower orders" who made up the bulk of the English nation, and we are fortunate in possessing a lively picture of them in Chaucer as a pendant to Froissart. The fourteenth century was a period of rapid change and development; the England of Richard II was very different from the England of Edward I. In the background of all the glamour of knighthood merchants were making money and becoming important, while the result of the terrible Black Death was to bring to a crisis the whole problem of labour, villeinage and feudal rights, so that politically and economically it was a time of great significance. And we can visit to-day its churches, with their tombs and brasses and stained glass windows, or see in museums exquisitely illuminated manuscripts that bear witness to years of patient artistic labour. An age that

produced such things cannot fail to win our admiration, even though as much wrong was done in the fourteenth century as in any other.

Social Rank.—A man's rank mattered far more in those days than we can ever understand. High rank was almost sacred, and a great noble could often do wrong and escape without punishment and almost without blame. Earls and barons were proud and haughty, and though they practised most carefully the virtues of chivalry, they did not always behave well to those beneath them. But they moved among pomp and formal ceremony (pl. 1, 2 (b)) and people looked up to them with reverence. The ideal knight cannot be better described than in Chaucer's words:

> A knight ther was, and that a worthy man
> That from the tyme that he first began
> To ryden out he lovede chyvalrye,
> Trouthe and honour, freedom and curtesie.

The attitude of chivalry between knight and knight is clearly shown in the Black Prince's conduct towards the French King John when he captured him at Poitiers. The Prince waited on his captive at table in camp; and when he brought him prisoner to London it seemed as if John were making a state visit to England as a most honoured guest.

But this was a century in which it became possible for the man of low birth to obtain a high position, either by means of trade or the sword. Merchants rose to be

(a) The Royal Salute. Kissing was a More Ordinary Greeting, Like Shaking Hands To-day.

(b) A Coronation Scene, Showing Typical Court and Ecclesiastical Costume.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(a) Typical Thirteenth-century Costume—Fur-lined Cloaks, Cap, Hawking Gloves and Shoes.
B.M. MS. Arundel 83.

(b) Country Folk Going to Market
Vogelsang: "Die Holzskulptur im Niederland.

very important during this period. Some of them were extremely wealthy and gave much financial help to Edward III, who on his side raised their social standing by allowing them to entertain him at banquets, and he himself became a member of the Merchant-Tailors' Guild, thus setting an example for the great clergy and nobles to follow. The truth was, that great lords possessed the land, but merchants had money, which was beginning to matter very much. Then came the sturdy country yeoman "in coat and hood of green" (pl. 41 (a)); the citizen secure within his city walls (pl. 56 (c)) and owing feudal dues to no man; the doctor, lawyer, clerk in orders; and finally the villein, who, though legally the property of his overlord, had by no means a bad time of it, because the Feudal System gave him definite rights. Besides, owing to the scarcity of labour following the Black Death, the labourer could better his position; both his importance and his wages increased. All these ranks of people had a different style of dress, which indicated their profession or occupation.

Religion.—Religion was like a strong chain that bound everyone together, entering into every detail of the lives of both rich and poor. Sundays and holy-days were observed very strictly, and all who could heard Mass every day. The poor were taught their religion by means of pictures and carvings in the churches and, above all, by sermons. Great ecclesiastics like the bishops were temporal lords and landowners as well as princes of the

Church, and there were many monasteries all over the country, where monks prayed and tilled the land, taught in their schools and gave alms to the poor. Some monasteries had amassed a great deal of property by this time and rather scandalized people by their wealth. Then there were the friars (chiefly Dominicans and Franciscans) whose work was to wander round the country, preaching and tending the sick, depending for food and lodging on charity. Unfortunately these friars in the later years of the century were not always what they professed to be, and both Chaucer and Langland point the finger of scorn at them. Every district had its parish church, served by a parish priest, who sometimes had a curate to help him. Records of mediæval parishes show us how proud people were of their churches and how they loved to beautify them. The church was the centre of village life, and often used for very secular purposes; law courts were held, books sold and children taught in the porch of St. Peter's Church at Sandwich. One of the consequences of the Black Death was to lessen the number of parish priests and to cause many of those remaining (according to Piers Plowman) on account of the poverty of their livings to go to London and other cities and get positions as chantry priests.[1] During the previous century there had flourished in England and all over Europe those two great military religious orders, the Knights

[1] A chantry was a small chapel where special priests were appointed to say masses for the dead.

Templars and the Knights Hospitallers. They had both begun with great and unselfish ideals, but had now gained enormous wealth and some members forgot the objects for which the orders had been founded. In fact, the Templar Knights had become so objectionable that the year 1312 saw their order entirely suppressed and their property handed over to their rivals, the Knights Hospitallers. During this century arose a band of "poor preachers," headed by John Wycliffe. They travelled round the country denouncing the worldly and evil lives led by some churchmen, who in return dubbed them Lollards or "babblers." They were regarded as heretics later, and some of them were burnt. Chaucer and Langland might make fun of the clergy or write bitterly about them, but the majority of people held them in great reverence. Nearly all education was in the hands of the clergy (pl. 67 (a), 68) and their preaching was the only way that people who could not read (and they were the majority) had of learning what was right or wrong.

Landscape.—It is difficult for us to get a clear idea of what English country must have looked like. Imagine miles and miles of dense trackless forest, the home of wolves and boars, then huge open spaces of moor and fenland all uncultivated, with an occasional muddy track over which the traveller toiled. But then there were green hills, and valleys watered by rivers where the sheep and cattle grazed; multi-coloured strips of cultivated

land where rye and barley and wheat were grown; quiet villages with little thatched huts and handsome churches, and perhaps a monastery not far off; cities (pl. 55 (b), 56 (c)) surrounded by strong and thick walls, above which rose many roofs and spires; and grim grey castles frowning down upon the countryside.

Country Life.—In his castle or strong manor house dwelt the overlord of the manor, and upon his character depended largely the lot of his tenants and villeins. From his stronghold he dispensed rough justice to the villagers, and his bailiff was charged with the business of seeing that feudal dues were paid. When the baron was not at war with someone (and in those days it was often the exception rather than the rule) he galloped through forest and countryside, hunting or hawking, attended by forest-keepers and hounds. By this century it had become customary for many lords to accept money payments instead of feudal service from their tenants, and also, especially after the Black Death, to rent out their land instead of working it themselves. Thus a class of small farmers had grown up, and they were becoming prosperous, though the pestilence hit them hard as it did all others. The villein toiled on his lord's land and cultivated his own little strips and pastured his beasts on the common pasture-ground. When the Black Death came its consequences to country life were dreadful. Fields of ripe corn rotted away because there was none to gather in the harvest, strips of land lay

RECONSTRUCTED INTERIOR OF FOURTEENTH-CENTURY HALL (PENSHURST, KENT).

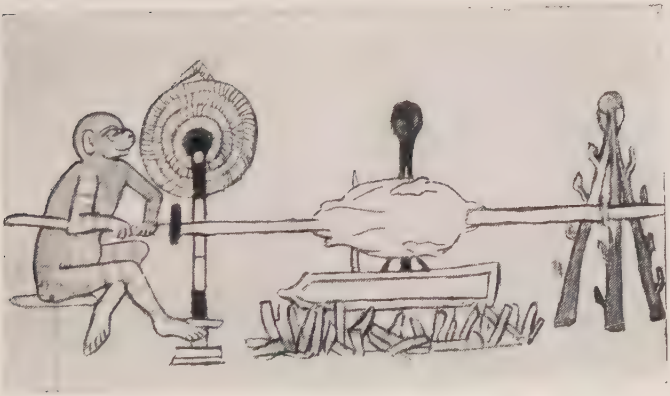
The lord and lady are dining on the dais, the retainers grouped round the hearth. Notice the dog and the jester.

From a model of the Great Hall at Penshurst. Metropolitan Museum of Fine Arts, New York.

(a) A Dinner, with Men and Women Seated Alternately.
Note bread for plates

(b) Another Interesting Meal.
From B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(a) Dishes Being Carried to the Table.



(b) A Roasting Spit. An Old Wet Straw Target Put Up to Shield the Turnspit Worker.

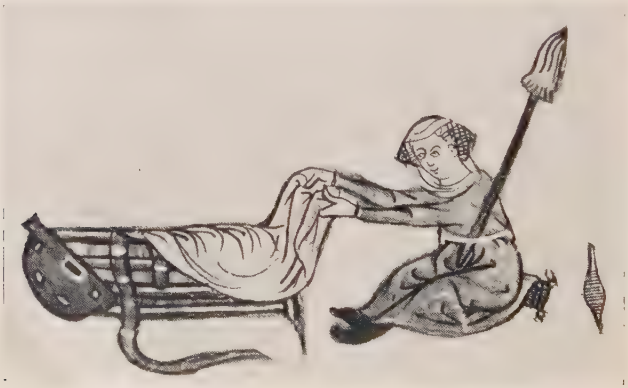
Note the pans to catch the "dripping" fat. The monkey is a caricature.

From B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(a) Waffle-irons and a Hot Cake.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. Douce 6.

(b) A Man Resting on His Bed.
(*Cf.* Fifteenth-century.)
Possibly the ideal city represents his dream!
B.M. Addl. MS. 38120.

(c) Spinning. The Fourteenth-century Cat was Just as Playful as Now.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.



(d) A Cradle with Cradle Bands.
It was thought important to make a child lie straight.

waste waiting in vain to be sown, and overlords were at their wits' end to find sufficient field labour. Many had already begun to appreciate the value of sheep farming and turned their corn land into pasture; and now the scarcity of labour drove many more to do the same. Although the villein was legally still bound to serve his feudal lord only, the great demand for labour gave him his chance to defy this law and work for the highest bidder. Up went food prices and labourers' wages, and the Statute of Labourers in 1351 did little to improve matters. Finally, the Peasants' Revolt thirty years later proved that the villein realised his importance and chafed under feudal restrictions.

Town Life.—In great contrast to life in the country was that lived in the towns. Here it was not a question of feudal service, but of a city's rights and privileges and every citizen's obligation to defend his city in time of danger. Serious quarrels sometimes arose between towns, as in 1327, when a king's writ had to be issued commanding the cessation of hostilities between Great Yarmouth, Little Yarmouth and Gorleston, and the arrest of the principal offenders. The town was a little world in itself. It was ruled by a mayor and a council of aldermen who framed all laws and saw to the defence of the city gates and walls. Frequent laws were made about the city streets in London. In 1309 a proclamation was issued, stating that all townfolk must clear their rubbish and take it outside the town or throw it into the Thames,

not leave it in the streets. Tailors were forbidden in 1310 to scour furs by day in the streets, chiefly so that "the great lords and good folks passing through Chepe . . . might not by such manner of scouring be disturbed or delayed in passing." Every citizen was interested in the welfare of his city, and rich ones showed their interest in a practical way. In fact, it was expected of all who could afford it. Riley's "Memorials of London" tells us that in 1300 the Bishop of London was bound to make the hinges of Bishopsgate, "seeing that from every cart laden with wood, he has one stick as it enters the said gate." William Elsings, mercer, founded "Elsings' Spital" in 1332 within Cripplegate for one hundred blind men. John Barnes, mayor in 1371, gave a chest with three locks and a thousand marks within to be lent to young men "upon sufficient pawn . . . for the use thereof to say De Profundis, or Pater Noster, and no more." John Philpott, mayor in 1378, equipped fleets for English commerce at his own expense and undertook also to build one of two stone towers to be erected on either side of the Thames for the protection of shipping. Of course, if rich people or corporations did not do these things they would not have been done at all, as the State did not see to them. Kings made frequent use of city corporations and wealthy citizens by borrowing money from them. If the responsibilities of a citizen were heavy, his festivals were magnificently kept, especially in London. In 1312, in honour of the birth of Prince

Edward, there was general holiday in London and the conduit in Chepe ran with wine. On this occasion the fishmongers, richly dressed, "fitted out a boat like a great ship, sailed it to Westminster and gave it to the Queen."

GUILDS.—The splendour of all these festivals was increased by the celebrations of the different guilds in the city. A guild was originally a union of merchants for purposes of trade, but as trade and industry increased each craft gradually formed its own union with separate laws and funds. Thus there were guilds of brewers, goldsmiths, bakers, mercers, grocers, butchers (pl. 54 (b)), masons (pl. 43, 44 (c)), barbers, dyers (pl. 51 (c)), pewterers, weavers, etc. In a guild both employers and employed were united. The rulers of a guild were Wardens, and it was their function to punish all kinds of cheating in their trade and to appoint "searchers" to examine the work done and sold by every member. There was a clerk to do the business and a cook (a good dinner was necessary to good business). Each guild had its own private chaplain and paid him a salary. Every member paid a subscription, and the funds were used to give help in poverty, old age, sickness and loss to members who could not help themselves. When one member died steps were taken to help his widow and Masses were said for the repose of his soul by the guild chaplain. From Edward III's reign onwards the members of guilds began to assume a distinctive dress or livery. On great feasts of

the Church and guild feasts (each one had its patron) there would be a solemn Mass, which all members had to attend, a great procession through the streets, a feast in the Guildhall and perhaps a play acted by members of the guild. Rules were strict and penalties severe, many fines being imposed for slight offences, such as appearing at a guild meeting without the correct costume. Some guilds were very rich and able to undertake the repairing of bridges and highways.

Industries.—English wool was famous, and during this century cloth-making became a very important English industry, especially in East Anglia. Flanders and England were drawn closer together by the wool industry, and the bond was cemented by the marriage of Edward III and Philippa of Hainault. Edward III wanted English weavers to be as proficient as Flemish ones, so he encouraged the latter to settle in England in order that his own subjects might learn from them. In 1331 a letter of protection was issued to John Kemp, a Flemish weaver coming to England to exercise his art and "teach it to such of our peoples as shall be inclined to learn it." Protection was promised by the King to Kemp and his family, workmen and apprentices, and the same to all like him who should come. Dyers and fullers were also invited, so that English cloth should become perfect. There was extensive quarrying of stone, alabaster and marble, and mining of lead, copper, tin and some iron carried on in different parts of England.

(a) Possibly a Lesson on Extravagance Exemplified by an Elaborate Tasselled Bag.

Bodl. Lib. Oxf., MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(b) Hair-dressing. Notice the Comb and Mirror of Polished Metal.

B.M. MS. Luttrell Psalter.

(c) Old Clothes Dealer with Appropriate Gesture.

B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(d) Carrying Water to Bath the New Baby.

B.M. MS. Harl. 2897.

(a) A Bedroom Scene; Heating Food in a Skillet Over a Portable Fire.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf., MS. 264, Romance of Alexander.

(b) A Woman with a Spindle, Showing Her Short Mediæval Hose.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(c) Shampoo Night.
B.M. MS. Sloane 2435.

Pewter was made from a mixture of copper, tin and lead. Bell-founders had most important work making the great church bells which were used so much in city and village life. English metal workers, especially goldsmiths, were renowned for their skill, and the goldsmiths' shops in London displayed all sorts of wonderful things. Great lords loved to invest their capital in large quantities of gold and silver plate, so the smiths must have made plenty of money. In the Middle Ages, when fast days were frequent and strictly kept, fishing was an important industry (pl. 47 (a), (c)). Every kind of fish was eaten, from whales to herrings. Women did much of the cloth-making and also carried on the home industries, such as brewing and baking. In all the ordinary crafts there were three kinds of workers—masters, journeymen and apprentices. A boy was apprenticed to a certain trade for a number of years by contract, and at the end of that time he could become a journeyman, i.e. a worker by the day. After some experience in this way he could by the consent of his guild become a master and have his own shop, subject of course to guild-searching and rules. Apprentices were sometimes unruly youths, and often caused trouble. Adam of Usk tells us in his chronicle for the year 1400: "In this Lent the lads [i.e. apprentices] of the City of London, often gathering together in thousands to elect kings among themselves, made war upon each other, and fought to their utmost strength, whereby many died stricken with blows."

TRADE.—The wool trade between England and Flanders was so great that during some of the quarrels between those two countries a threat to put a stop to it on England's part made the Flemish rulers come to terms. Flemish weavers depended largely on the importing of English raw wool. England also exported metal work, honey, salted fish, and obtained from the East (chiefly through Venice) gold and silver, spices, silks and satins, leather and iron from Spain, wines from Gascony. Many foreign merchants lived and traded in England, but were not popular, and were brought under heavy restrictions. Certain export markets or "staples" were fixed at different towns, and all goods had to be sent to their respective staples to be examined and "sealed" before being sold. Fairs were very important events and might last for weeks sometimes. They were often held in churchyards on holy-days, although the Church discouraged this practice. When the trader came to the fair he had to pay toll for permission to bring his goods and sell them. These were gala days for villagers and town folk, and from far and near people flocked to them. Every town had a market day at least once a week, when the gates were opened to admit country people with poultry and dairy produce to set up their stalls in the market-place. A remarkable feature of mediæval towns was the grouping of all shops manufacturing one kind of article in one quarter of the town. Goods were made on the shop premises, and the customer could see the workers making

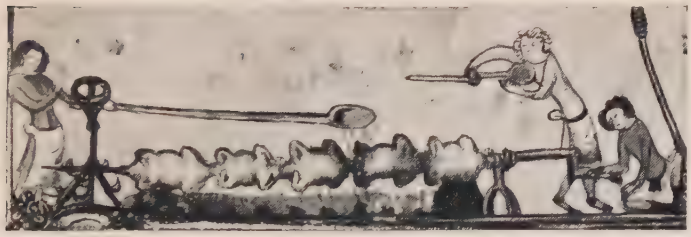
the article he came to purchase. At this period, when communication between different parts of the country was difficult, the wandering pedlar was a very welcome visitor to the countryfolk, not only for what he had to sell, but also for the scraps of news he had picked up on his travels. It was hard to try and regulate prices, as we realise when we think of the enormous difference the Hundred Years' War and the Black Death made. But many attempts were made to fix them. Edward I tried to fix fish prices, thus: "Best soles 3d. a dozen, turbot 6d., best mackerel in Lent 1d. each, pickled herrings 20 a penny, oysters 2d. a gallon, 25 best eels for 2d." In 1305, because of "the Scots and strange folks coming to the Parliament of our Lord the King," no one was to enhance the price of victuals against the assize: i.e. one gallon of wine for 3d., four or two loaves for one penny, one gallon of ale for a penny. In 1311 a gallon of the best wine was to be sold at 5d. for that year, the next best at 4d., and the rest at 3d. In 1337 200 ells of red cloth cost £15 and the shearing of the cloth cost £9 4s. A proclamation of 1363 commanded that the best goose should be sold at 6d., best capon 6d., hen 4d., rabbit 4d., four larks a penny, a pheasant 2d., a partridge 5d., best carcass of mutton 2s., best loin of beef 5d., best loin of pork 3d. Wheat prices varied considerably; in 1316 a bushel of wheat was 5s., and in 1319 a quarter of wheat was sold for 40s. But these are only scattered examples, and prices must have varied according to year and

district. Some idea of values can be got also from this list of the wares in a haberdasher's shop in 1378:

	s.	*d.*
2 dozen laces of red leather, value		8
1 gross points	1	6
1 dozen nightcaps	2	3
2 dozen coloured woollen caps	16	0
5 children's caps, red and blue	2	1
1 russet hat		6
1 white hat		3
1 purse (sea-green colour)		6
4 pairs of spurs	2	0
1 wooden gaming table with a set of men		6
1 cross painted with Him Crucified and other figures	2	4
1 set of jet beads (special virtue was attributed to jet)		6
1 set of alabaster beads (black)		4
2 pairs of pen-cases with ink-horn		8
2 lbs. of linen thread green and blue	2	0
4 eyeglasses (spectacles?)		2
13 quires of paper	6	8
6 skins of parchment		6
1 wooden whistle		2

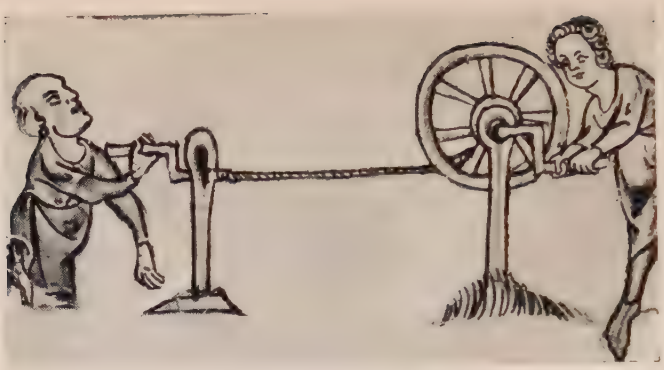
Building.—At the beginning of this period the first true Gothic style, known as Early English, gave way to the next phase, called "Decorated," which continued during most of the century. Church building developed considerably (pl. 43, 44); construction advanced and the masons obtained a mastery over their material, and later on the stonework tended to be restricted to a light framework enclosing large windows of rich stained glass. Though the work in parish churches is often plain, there

(a) Pounding Meat, Stirring Paste, Cooking Stews (Note Double Saucepans).



(b) Roasting and Basting Birds Threaded on a Long Spit.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf., MS. 264, Romance of Alexander.

(c) A Tavern, with a Sign Hung Out.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf., MS. 264.



(a) Rope-making (See Fifteenth Century).
Bodl. Lib. Oxf., MS. Douce 6.

(b) Making and Baking Bread.

(c) Another Tavern, Guests Expected.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf., MS. 264.

was much elaborate richness of ornament, as in the Percy shrine, Beverley Minster. Many experiments were tried throughout: in windows we get the first real tracery (pl. 4), replacing the long "lancets." At first combinations of circles filled the window head, a style known as "Geometrical." Later this is replaced by a flowing and graceful form of design known as "Curvilinear." The double or "ogee" curve is widespread, and mouldings become shallower. The foliage of the capitals, instead of being of the stiff but effective conventional Early English type, is carved more in imitation of nature, and seems to be wrapped round the capital instead of springing from the pillar. Though perhaps not so great artistically, it is beautiful, as in Southwell Chapter House. In vaulting, English builders showed great originality, adding a number of intermediate ribs, making a network pattern called "lierne." Many aisles were added to earlier churches, and we get the start of Chantry chapels, which often contain founders' and other tombs. There is an immense number of fine monuments remaining from the fourteenth century—more than from any other period. The woodworker also found himself in design, and instead of imitating stonework produced beautiful and intricate work in choir stalls, etc., as at Winchester. There is altogether a greater delicacy and richness, though some think at the loss of some effective simplicity. In figure sculpture the early fourteenth century is unsurpassed. About 1350 the masons at Gloucester adopted

a new method of window tracery, in which the majority of the mullion bars were upright; this style is called "Perpendicular." This evolved into a new fashion of building, and by 1400 had taken firm hold throughout most of England. (See *Fifteenth Century*, p. 20.) In castles, the idea of the central keep was abandoned, and the castle took the form of a ring wall strengthened with towers with the domestic buildings inside, attached or separate. There is also the concentric type with two rings, one inside the other. In manor houses we get the full development of the central hall (pl. 4), with the daïs or raised platform and high table at one end, at the other the passage known as "the screens," with doors leading to the buttery and kitchen, right across the hall from the main entrance to the rear court. In a few great houses there was a gallery over the screens. See Penshurst (pl. 4), for this arrangement generally. The kitchens at the screens end were balanced by the parlour, great chamber and other apartments at the daïs end. Half timber was probably used for most cottages, though not many survived. The floor, strewn with rushes, was sometimes tiled, and the bare walls covered with tapestries and hangings according to what the owner could afford. Then there were a solar or sun-parlour, kitchens, cellars and smaller rooms serving as bedrooms. Stables, buttery, etc., were sometimes detached from the main building.

Town houses were often built of wood, though by this

century citizens were encouraged as much as possible to use harder material in order to lessen the danger of fire. In these houses one storey overlapped another in such a way as to make the streets very narrow and dark. Communication with towns or other manors being difficult, the manor house had to be self-supporting, providing each member of the household with food and clothes. The villeins lived in little thatched clay huts and looked to their overlords for protection if there was a raid on the village. The plans and cost of a wooden town house to be built in 1308 by Simon of Canterbury (carpenter) for William of Haningtone (pelterer) are interesting. The house was to be made thus: A hall and a room with a chimney (though chimneys were not in general use at this time) and one larder between the said hall and room. A solar over the room and larder, also one oriole (probably recess with bay-window) at the end of the hall beyond the high bench, and one step with an oriole from the ground to the door of the hall aforesaid, outside that of the hall, and two enclosures as cellars opposite to each other, beneath the hall, one enclosure for a sewer with two pipes leading to the said sewer, one stable between said hall and the old kitchen twelve feet in width with a solar above such stable and a garret above the solar aforesaid; at one end of such solar there is to be a kitchen with a chimney, and there is to be an oriole (probably here a room with a bay-window) between the said hall and the old chamber, eight feet in width.

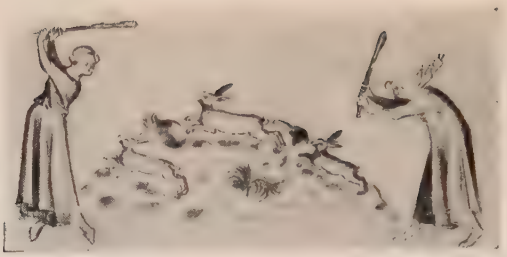
For this the carpenter was to be paid "£9 5s. 4d. sterling, half a hundred of eastern marten skins, fur for a woman's hood, value 5s., and fur for a robe of him, the said Simon." In 1350 the wages of masons were to be 6d. a working day (without meat or drink) between Easter and St. Michael, and from St. Michael to Easter, 5d., with nothing on feast-days.

Home Life.—In the castle or larger manor house there was a great deal of form and ceremonial. Organisation of meals and provision of food were undertaken by numerous stewards and marshals, but the responsibility rested with the mistress of the house, the head of the household having much outside business to attend to. It was the fashion for noblemen to send their children to be brought up in other nobles' houses, so there were nearly always children to look after. In great families breakfast was had at seven, dinner about ten, supper at four, and light refreshments between eight and nine, taken in the bedroom before retiring. Dinner and supper were elaborate and formal meals, eaten to the accompaniment of music from the musicians' gallery. Numerous serving men brought in the dishes in procession (pl. 5 (a), (b), 6 (a)); and dogs (pl. 4) lay under the long trestle tables waiting for the bones they knew would come. Hospitality was widely practised at this period. No traveller was refused meat and rest, and repaid the courtesy by telling what news he could. The lord of the house sat at the head of the table, and the

(a) A Woman Wearing Graceful Mediæval Drapery.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(b) Hair-dressing with a Double-sided Comb (Coarse Teeth One Side, Fine the Other).
B.M. MS. Harl. 6563.

(c) Drawing Loaves from the Oven and Packing Them into Baskets.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV.



(a) Women Knocking Over Rabbits with Sticks.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(b) Making Up a Bed for a Traveller.
B.M. Addl. MS. 38120.

(c) The Servant Hands Up a Long Stocking.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII.

guests according to rank, the servants and dependents "below the salt." On the table were dishes (sometimes of pewter; gold and silver plate was usually for show and displayed on the sideboard nearby (pl. 4)) filled with salted and fresh meat and fish and fowl of every possible variety, dressed in different ways. Many dishes were spiced and over-flavoured and few vegetables were eaten. Each guest had a trencher before him either of wood or stale bread, and he cut off a portion of meat with his knife and ate with his fingers or a spoon (forks being unknown). Wines and ale and sometimes beer were served by the marshals and grooms in wooden or pewter cups. After all the meat courses came sweetmeats and dried and fresh fruits. A wealthy merchant might hold the same sort of ceremony over meals in his town house, except that he would probably not have so much leisure for it. The ordinary middle class lived more simply, having breakfast about eight, dinner at noon, and supper, the last meal of the day, at six.

Furniture was rough and scanty; long trestle tables with benches and stools in the great hall (pl. 4, 5 (a), (b)) and a wooden arm-chair for the master of the house; scarcely any furniture in the bedrooms. Those who could afford it had feather beds and plenty of sheets and blankets and pillows. At the end of the bed there was usually a large coffer or chest in which clothes were kept. A page brought ewer and basin in the morning for washing purposes.

Dress.—There was much variety in dress at this period, and a man's dress usually told you his rank or profession. Among the upper classes bright scarlets and blues and greens were very popular and silks and satins and velvet the materials used; simple country folk favoured home-spun cloth. The workman's dress (pl. 14 (b), 36 (a), (b), 39 (a), (b)) was a plain tunic with tight-fitting hose; the merchant or professional man (pl. 53, 55) accentuated his dignity with a long robe often bordered with fur; the man of rank (pl. 1, 2, 5) indulged in as much decoration as he could afford. Priests and clerks in Holy Orders (pl. 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 (b), (c)) were recognisable by their tonsures, and usually wore sober colours befitting their calling. Men's dress did not alter very much during this period, but it is interesting to notice their mode of wearing long curly hair, and their penchant for beards. Ladies' dresses were all very long and full, with high waists and tight-fitting bodices and long sleeves (pl. 7 (c), 8 (a), (b)). It was the fashion for ladies to show as little hair as possible (sometimes foreheads were shaved) and head-dresses were of all kinds, from the white wimple of the country-woman to the much-ornamented one of the countess with a fine veil hanging from it. Women's head-dresses underwent many changes in the course of this century. By about 1360 wimples had gone out of fashion, though widows continued to wear them right up to the time of Henry VII. By the reign of Richard II some of these fashions had

become quite absurdly exaggerated, and the middle classes were copying their betters to such an extent that laws had to be made to restrict them. New fashions came in when Anne of Bohemia married Richard II. When the Emperor of the Greeks visited London in 1400 to seek help from the English King against the Turks he remarked that there were too many fashions and distinctions in English dress, betokening "fickleness and changeable temper."

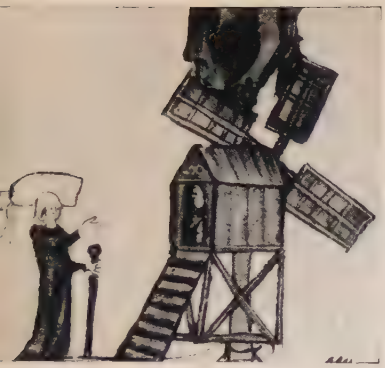
EDUCATION.—To read and write were not at all general accomplishments in the fourteenth century. The number of schools was comparatively small, and many people could not have afforded such education for their sons. Indeed, it was only during this century that a peasant obtained any right to educate his son at all. Schools that did exist (pl. 67 (a), 68) were practically all in the hands of the clergy, and intended for boys who would eventually take Orders or study for a profession, or for merchants' sons. A nobleman's son did not go to any school at all. He might learn to read and write and speak French from the chaplain of the house, and perhaps to sing and play on the harp. But most of his attention was given to warlike exercises, war being the business of a nobleman's life in those days. At an early age he was sent to live in another nobleman's house as a page to serve the ladies and run messages and generally make himself useful. He learnt while here to ride and jump and wield a sword and spear, and when he grew older he became a knight's

squire; looking after his lord's armour and horse, following him on journeys and in battle were the chief of his duties. Chaucer's squire was squire to his own father and an ideal young man, twenty years of age and "fresh as is the month of May."

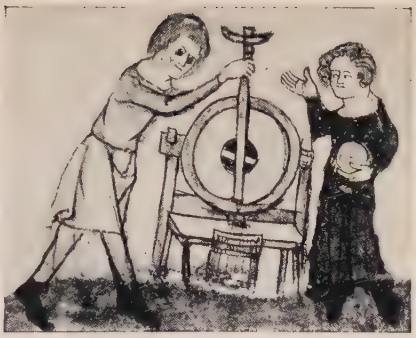
> Curteys he was, lowly, and servysable,
> And carf byforn his fadur at the table.

It was the young squire's greatest ambition to render himself worthy of becoming a knight by doing some deed of bravery. Knighthood was regarded as a sacred calling, and the ceremonies attached to the creating of a knight were religious ones carried out with great solemnity. The merchant's son was sent if possible to a grammar school to learn reading and writing, casting accounts and perhaps a foreign language. In monastic and chantry schools the education given was mostly religious. The boys were taught Latin and how to sing hymns and answer Mass. Grammar schools taught Latin too as a foundation for education. The boys had to construe Latin into either English or French (by Edward III's reign English had begun to be the national tongue instead of French).

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge were flourishing at this period, though the Black Death must have taken a terrible toll among the learned. There were grammar schools attached to both Universities. Men from all parts of the country met at Oxford and Cambridge; they were like foreigners to one another,



(a) A Woman Carrying a Sack of Corn Interviews the Miller



(b) A Cider or Cheese Press.

(a) and (b) from B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(c) The Monk's Cellarer Helps Himself to a Drop.

(d) Pounding Apples in a Stone Trough to Make Verjuice, the Mediæval Cooking Equivalent to Lemon Juice.

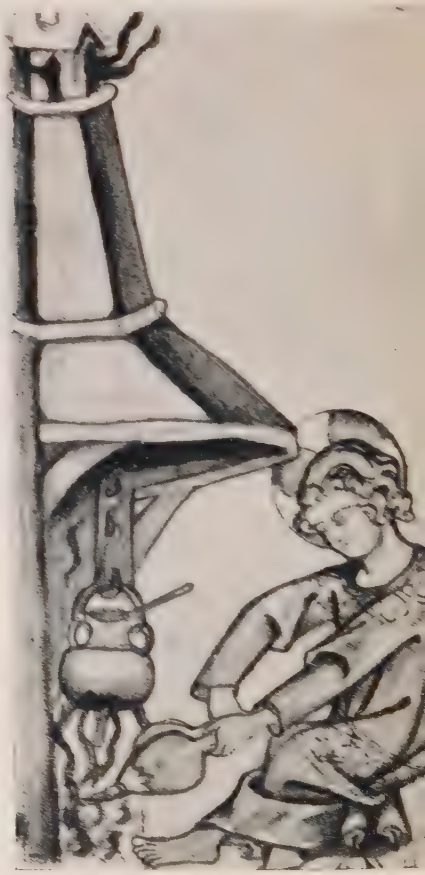
(c) and (d) B.M. MS. Sloane 2435.

(a) A Bedroom in a Curtained Alcove.

The cot-cradle is conveniently raised.

[B.M. MS. R[illegible] 2 B. V.]

(b) Some Ovens Were Fireless, Being Previously Heated by Wood, Like a Baker's.

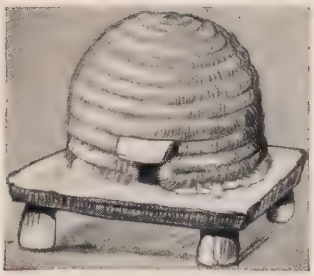


(c) Hooded Fireplace, Wide Chimney and Pot on Crane.

WOMAN WASHING CLOTHES AND BEATING THEM IN THE STREAM WITH WOODEN "HANDS."

(a) "When Adam Delved and Eve Span . . ."

B.M. MS. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.



(b) A Straw Bee-skelp.

(c) Iron Cauldrons, Kept Boiling Continuously, Often Containing Earthenware Pots with Food Stewing.

(d) A Labourer's Simple Dress, with Seams Left Unstitched for Working in.

(e) A Smiling Fourteenth-century Lady.

From a statue in the Victoria and Albert Museum, S. Kensington.

and had many disagreements. Boys went at a very early age to the University, and took usually four years to obtain the degree of Bachelor of Arts. All lectures were given in Latin, then a living language throughout Europe. After graduation the students took up a special branch of study, such as theology or law or medicine. We get an idea of expenses at Oxford from the following account of a guardian as to money expended upon his ward in 1374: He paid for Thomas' board during 13 years 2s. a week while at Oxford (104s. yearly), 40s. a year for clothes, linen and shoes; 2 marks a year for his teaching (ten years out of the thirteen), and for sundry expenses 20s. yearly. The teaching was done by lectures, the scholars summing up and repeating what they had learned, because books were few and very expensive, possessed as a rule only by rich men; some rich monasteries (e.g. St. Albans, Glastonbury, York and Durham) had beautiful libraries of these treasures, laboriously written on parchment and strongly bound in leather or velvet. Paper was expensive, and for writing lessons at school wax tablets were generally used.

Girls were educated on quite different lines. Convents of nuns sometimes undertook to teach girls of high rank reading, writing and needlework, but the average middle-class girl was instructed in the mysteries of house-craft, and often had great responsibilities in this way at an early age. The daughters of villeins learned to do the lighter work in the fields which women often undertook.

WARFARE.—The Middle Ages was a period when making war constituted the business of life for men of high rank and great possessions. Crusading fever was past, but there were all sorts of private wars between great noblemen, to say nothing of the Hundred Years' War. To supplement a feudal army mercenary soldiers were usually hired for a war of this kind. Very impressive must Edward III's army have looked with its ranks of heavily armed knights (pl. 76 (a)) on prancing horses with shining swords, and brightly coloured pennons waving in the air. Along with these knights tramped the foot-soldiers (pl. 77 (b)), men-at-arms carrying pikes and archers with their bows and arrows. The knight wore heavier armour now on account of the great improvement in archery. His helmet was larger; he protected his neck by a mail covering, so that only his face was exposed; over the chain mail shirt he now had a big steel breastplate, and steel plates to protect shoulders, elbows and knees. This mail shirt would be covered by a surcoat with the knight's coat-of-arms embroidered on it. The knight of 1360 was incapable of rapid movement on account of all the weight he carried. This century shows great development in armour (pl. 78). More and more plate defences were gradually added to the chain-mail suit, and the middle of the century saw the introduction of padding. Men-at-arms had mail or leather tunics and helmets, while archers (pl. 80 (b)) had to be clad as lightly as possible for rapid movement. For weapons the

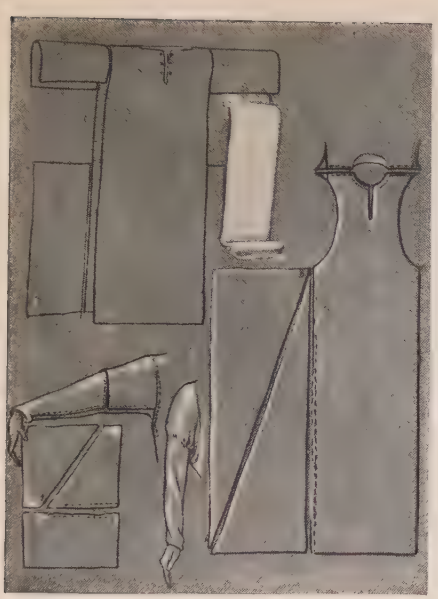
knight bore a huge and cumbersome sword, a lance and a battle-axe, and he carried a shield, smaller now that armour was more protective. The men-at-arms fought with their pikes and the archers' bows and arrows decided many a battle. The long-bow (pl. 31, 77 (a)) was the favourite English weapon; deadlier than the cross-bow if used by experts, and English yeomen were rapidly becoming experts with it. A certain amount of fighting took the form of sieges (pl. 74), though men were beginning to realise that there was more to be gained by fighting in the open field, and when we look at even the ruins of the mighty mediæval castles we wonder how they could ever have been taken. All sorts of siege engines were invented and improved upon; mangonels, catapults, battering-rams, etc. (pl. 79 (a), 81 (a), (b)). Besiegers would dig under the castle defences (pl. 49 (a), 75 (b)) and try and get in that way while the besieged poured unpleasant things like boiling bran down on them. Finally came the great invention of gunpowder. Cannons were not used in England before the middle of the century, and clumsy things they were at first; sometimes as dangerous to the gunner as to his enemies.

Sea-fights (pl. 76 (b), 77 (a)) were very frequent. Both English and French liked to think they were supreme in the Channel, so the meeting of English and French ships there usually meant trouble, to say nothing of pirate ships with which all seas were infested. The instances of fourteenth century piracy recorded are numerous.

In 1325 an English ship with a cargo of 1,480 quarters of salt (value £296) was captured by the Flemish and taken to Flanders, the master and crew escaping with difficulty in the ship's boat. Again, in 1327 Adam Hurel and John Genge were robbed of their ship, "La Blithe," carrying a cargo of wool (value £100). She was captured by Frenchmen on the way to Antwerp. Ships of every kind had to be ready for battle, and every sailor prepared to turn soldier at a moment's notice. Certain ships were kept for the defence of the English south coast; these were chiefly provided by the Cinque Ports.[1] In 1335 all ships of forty casks of wine burden from ports north of Faversham were ordered to be armed and manned for service against the Scots; and any that were at sea were to return to port and be equipped in readiness. The ships (pl. 60, 61 (c), 62) had big square sails and often two masts. Sea traffic was considerable, not only as communication between France and England, but because in spite of piracy the English trade with Venice was increasing.

Travel and Transport.—Except for the main highways there were very few roads worthy of the name. Many of them were narrow muddy tracks almost impassable after heavy rain. For trade purposes it was often safer and cheaper to use the nearest waterway and send

[1] The Cinque Ports were: Hastings, Romney, Hythe, Dover and Sandwich. Until the reign of Henry VII they provided the Crown with nearly all the ships and men for coastal defence.



(a) The Construction of a Dress, Bodice and Sleeves.

(c) The Construction of Fourteenth-century Hoods.

(b) The Head Wrap and Wimple, not Made Up but Folded from One Piece of Linen.

Redrawings from various sources by D. Hartley.

(a) Company in the Stocks.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV.

(b) Burning at the Stake.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

goods by barge. Rivers were the great highway of the Middle Ages, and were probably deeper than now, since drainage was less efficient; so that many a small stream of nowadays must have been quite useful six hundred years ago. Few good bridges existed, and rivers were usually crossed by a ford at the shallowest part. Roads and bridges were often left for a long time unrepaired, though statutes were passed obliging the owners of the land to see to the matter. An Act was passed in Edward I's reign directing that "those ways should be enlarged where bushes, woods or dykes stood, where men might lurk, so that there be neither dyke, tree, nor bush within twenty feet on each side of these roads, great trees excepted." This was to prevent robberies, and the lord of the soil was to be responsible for it. In 1356 an order was issued in London for the collection of money at the city gates for the repair of roads. Every cart entering the city and bringing wares for sale was to pay a penny and every cart going out a penny, a horse with wares entering and going, a farthing; carts bringing sand, gravel and clay had to pay 3d. a week. Tolls were charged at the Ribble Bridge near Clitheroe (Lancs.), from those passing over, for its repair. In 1339, if you took a cartload of sea-fish across you had to pay 4d.; a sack of wool, 2d.; ten sheep or swine, a penny; for each horse, cow or ox, a ½d.; a cask of wine, 2d.; a bunch of onions, ¼d.; a last of herrings, ½d.; a horse-load of honey 1d., and every fresh salmon, ½d.

The lord of several manors would journey from one to another, spending a certain time at each. With him would go all his furniture and a large retinue of servants and men-at-arms. On market days the countryfolk (pl. 3 (b), 57 (c)) trudged along with baskets and bundles on their heads or driving donkeys with loaded paniers into the town. Troops of soldiers going to join the army of a great lord passed along, ladies of rank in their litters (pl. 58), musicians with their instruments, friars and priests, pilgrims (pl. 59 (b), 61 (a)) going to Our Lady of Walsingham or the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury, or perhaps overseas to the Holy Land. Chaucer's pilgrims are typical of the fourteenth century. All classes of people met with this common purpose, and a body of pilgrims travelling together made a real pleasure trip out of it, though with religious motives. In fine weather and in good company what could be more enjoyable? Chaucer's pilgrims apparently were able to travel comfortably on horseback, but many were not so fortunate and had to toil along on foot. Not everyone in the fourteenth century could afford a horse for his journey, though they could be hired as well as bought. Goods were taken by barge on the water, in carts where the roads would allow it, on pack-horses as a rule. The best inns were in towns, but hospitality could be counted upon from a manor house or a monastery.

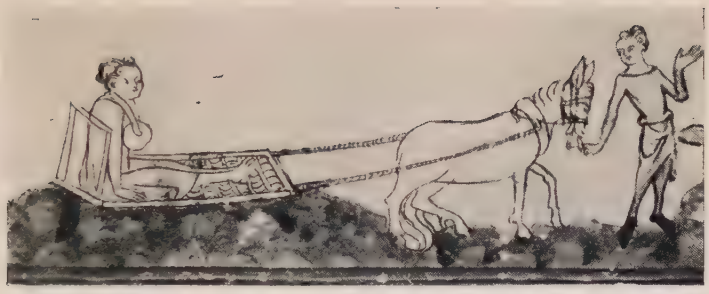
Medicine and Surgery.—Plagues were frequent during the Middle Ages. The Black Death is computed

to have swept away two-thirds of the whole population. Besides the Black Death there was a "Great Plague" in 1361, and another bad one in 1369. Then there was leprosy, which meant complete isolation for the victim. There were hospitals (pl. 70 (a), (b), 71 (a), (c)) for the sick, looked after principally by monks and nuns. Some clever surgeons lived in this time, though surgical instruments were very rough and insufficient. A master-surgeon was distinguished from a doctor of physic (his superior in rank) and from a barber-surgeon (his inferior). Master-surgeons had a gild in London. Their work was encroached upon by the barbers, who practised blood-letting, the making of incisions, etc. John of Gaddesden was a famous doctor of physic at Oxford in 1320, and John Ardern a well-known English surgeon of the fourteenth century, born in 1307. Besides other things he wrote down his idea of what a surgeon should be; pious, charitable, modest, grave, taking care of the company he keeps. He must have a clear understanding about the fee before he operates; and have a store of comfortable sayings and merry tales for his patient. Women were often recognised doctors in the fourteenth century.

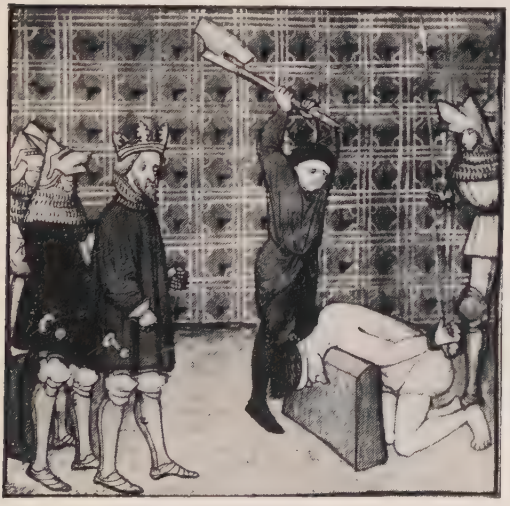
Law and Punishments (pl. 19, 20).—It was Edward I who made the English Parliament in the form in which it has survived to this day. Law Courts were kept busy with the many disputes between great landowners, though these men often took the matter finally into their own hands and settled it by force of arms. Disputes went on

between bishops and monasteries (both landowners) and there were ecclesiastical lawyers to deal with these questions. A usual form of trial for crime used by men of high rank was trial by combat, in which a duel between the accuser and the accused was considered a just method and the man who won declared innocent. Trial by jury had taken the place of the ordeal for average persons. Anyone in Holy Orders could claim "benefit of clergy" in the church court, whose business was to judge members of the clergy accused of crimes; this court could not sentence to death. Four men were accused of a certain theft in 1328, of whom three were found guilty by a jury and hanged, while the fourth declared himself and was proved to be a clerk, thereby avoiding the death penalty. On the whole justice was very rough indeed and punishments were severe. A thief, if proved guilty, was hanged, a witch burned, and all kinds of mutilation were practised. Then there were the pillory and the stocks (pl. 19 (a)), less painful, but very humiliating; and in certain cases the punishment fitted the crime most happily, as when the vintner who sold bad wine was forced to drink some of it and the rest was poured on his head. There was an hour in the pillory, too, for the "scold" who sowed envy among her neighbours, sparing none and backbiting many. There were evil-smelling prisons also, and deep dungeons in the castles of great lords.

Music and Other Arts.—All classes of people loved music, from the knight who listened to courtly love-songs



(a) A Baker Convicted of Selling Short Weight Drawn on a Sledge with an Incriminating Loaf About His Neck.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.



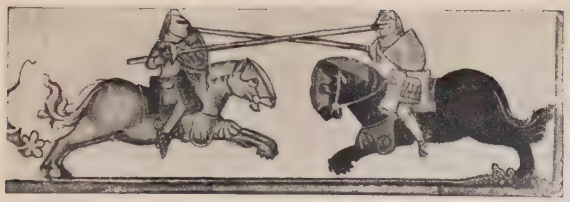
(b) Beheading on a Block.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

A Mêlée in the Tournament, Full of Incident.
B.M. Addl. MS. 12228.

to the monk with his plain chant and the village folk with their country dances and songs. A wandering musician was a popular guest everywhere. Noblemen and their ladies learnt to be very proficient on stringed instruments such as the viol and the harp (pl. 34 (b), 35 (a), (b), (e)). The shepherd played his pipe upon the hillside (pl. 35 (d)); music was recommended by the best physicians as a useful means of soothing the sick. For other arts we have only to think of the beautiful buildings and carvings and illuminated manuscripts of this time to realise that fourteenth century people knew a great deal about them. The figure sculpture of this time is especially remarkable. And this century produced writers like Langland and Wycliffe, and above all the "Father of English Poetry," Chaucer.

Amusements.—The lighter side of life was represented in the houses of great nobles by the jester (pl. 4), whose business was to make jokes and force his master out of a melancholy mood. The most important amusement among those of high rank was the tournament (pl. 21). In one sense it was a serious business, being a training for warfare, but there were special stands erected and rows of fair ladies watching and crowds of people who looked upon it as a gala event. In 1327 it was found necessary to forbid "any earl, baron, or man-at-arms from tourneying, making bourds or jousts, seeking adventures or doing other feats of arms without the king's special licence." Stow tells us in his annals of "very solemn

jousting of all the stout earls, barons and nobles at London in Cheape, betwixt the great cross and the great conduit nigh Soper Lane, which lasted three days, where the Queen Philippa, with many ladies fell from a stage, notwithstanding they were not hurt at all: wherefore the Queene took great care to save the carpenters from punishment and through her prayer (which she made on her knees) she pacified the King and Council, whereby she purchased great love of the people." On another occasion Edward III held a tournament (first proclaimed all over Europe) that lasted for fifteen days. Numbers of great people were present, and afterwards ladies in beautiful dresses danced with as much spirit as the knights had tilted. Hunting and hawking (pl. 25, 26) were favourite outdoor sports, the latter for ladies too; hawks being very much prized and carefully trained. For winter time there was chess, the most popular game for both sexes; dice for the knights, and dancing. Country folk and citizens too had all sorts of romping games (pl. 23, 24, 27, 28), including football and dancing on the green. They were entertained at fairs with Punch and Judy shows, performing animals (pl. 29 (a), 30 (b), (c)), pipe and tabor, etc. It was a red-letter day when a party of players came to the market-place, or one of the guilds acted a play for all to see. The subjects chosen were always religious ones, but plenty of room was found for comic scenes; and the players acted on rough wooden stages set up hastily in the market-place while an expectant audience stood



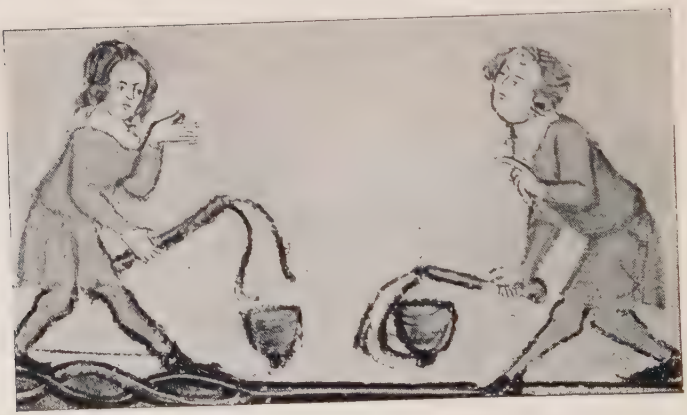
(a) Tilting. "Swerve to the Left . . . when You See His Eyes Through the Helm."
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(c) The Knight Carries the Virgin and Child on Banner and Shield.
B.M. Addl. MS. 17006.

(b) Unhorsed!
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264.

(d) A Joust, with Heralds Blowing Trumpets.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(a) Grown-ups and Children Playing.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.



(b) Whip-top (*Cf.* Fifteenth Century).
Bodl. Lib. Oxf., MS. Douce 6.

(a) Tilting at the Quintain on a Wooden Two-boy-power Horse.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264.

(b) Another Quintain with Swinging Sandbag Weight.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264.

(c) Children Playing at Tournament on Foot and Pick-a-back.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264.

(a) Shooting a Stag.

B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(b) Returning with the Hare.

(c) A Stag Hunt with Horn and Hounds.

(b) and (c) B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII.

around. The English people of the Middle Ages threw themselves into work and play alike; they lived in stern times, when life was cheap and it was well to enjoy the present for fear of what the future might bring. Froissart remarks of the English: "Consider how serious a thing it is when the people rise up in arms against their sovereign; more especially such a people as the English. In such a case there is no remedy; for they are the worst people in the world, the most obstinate and presumptuous: and of all England the Londoners are the leaders; for, to say the truth, they are very powerful in men and in wealth. In the city and neighbourhood there are 24,000 men, completely armed from head to foot, and full 30,000 archers. This is a great force, and they are bold and courageous; and the more blood is spilt the greater their courage." Generally speaking, the first half of the fourteenth century was light-hearted and chivalrous, while the latter part showed a more business-like and sober spirit.

To understand a little our ancestors of six hundred years ago we must remember that there was no united "nation" of England as we see it now; the man from Yorkshire was as much a foreigner to the Devon man as a Dutchman would be to us to-day. They acknowledged the same king, but the feudal lord was a nearer and more to be dreaded authority, and the idea of feudal service was strong in the minds of most country-bred persons, although by 1400 the feudal system was breaking up.

War and disease and robbery were usual occurrences, and the great thing was to keep your crops growing and your cattle pastured through it all and leave the issues to the great folk, who, according to mediæval ideas, were born to be your lords and must therefore at all costs be obeyed.

I

Agriculture

THE LAND.—The people of the land and their working are bound together, interlocking more closely than in any other century. There is one grim war with the gods of plague, pestilence and famine, and in the history of that war the most poignant parts are unwritten, told only by the silence of blank pages, by the broken entries, and the dead. Piers Plowman cries out from England, not Jerusalem, that "Life and death in this darkness are fighting the other. . . . And none shall know in very truth who shall have the mastery." So in slow poverty and wild famine came the Peasants' Revolt, tempering all our English history hereafter. The immensity of the effort, all the sadness of broken trust, the hard-born courage of despair, are beyond the telling in these little notes. The old Feudal System still held, but its written laws were fading ink on parchment. Its working laws were subtly altered. In theory the peasants were bond-slaves, dictated to from birth to death, and having no personal freedom and few rights. They had in theory only the protective claim of their own slavery; they were the property of their landowner. But if this was so in practice, why the hurried Famine Laws and laws demand-

ing fixed rates of pay? Why need the landowner apply frantically to legislation for help where he could already demand obedience?

It was the land, over-lord of both owner and labourer, which ruled by the stern law of hunger. The land must be served. The people must serve the land—and half the people died.[1]

Crops.—The crops grown were wheat, barley, rye and oats, and mixtures of these—drage, beans and peas. They returned four times their own sowing. The agriculturist now expects about fifteen times the return and often more. In the fourteenth century half the land lay fallow each year. Manuring was so necessary that sheep were hired to graze and fertilize fields, and the pigeon-loft was scraped for its guano. Ploughing (pl. 42 (b)) was shallow, by ox-drawn wooden ploughs shod with iron. Besides ploughing, hand labour was employed digging, breaking clods with primitive wooden mallets, and dibbling. Shovels were of wood, but spades had metal edges folded over them like the ploughs. Sowing (pl. 42 (c)) was broadcast, regulated by rhythm of chant and beating footfalls. Beans were put in by hand-labour, chiefly by women and children. Reaping (pl. 41 (c)) was done by hand-sickles into baskets, and the standing straw frequently cut later and taken to

[1] Rogers contends that during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the population of England remained almost stationary at 2¼–2½ millions, and bases this on the grain output and cereal returns, root crops being negligible.

(a) Two Friends. Two Horses and Two Hawks.

(b) Digging Out a Fox.

(a) and (b) B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(a) Rough and Tumble Wrestling on Pick-a-back.

(b) Bobbing for Buns and Apples.

(a) and (b) from B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII.
Queen Mary's Psalter.

(a) Skittles —Called "Kyals"; Throwing a Whirling Stick.

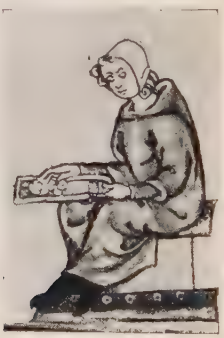
(b) Whip-top (*Cf.* Plate 23 (b)).

(a) and (b) from B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter

(a) A Performing Bear.
B.M. MS. Burney 275.

(b) A Board Game.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(c) The Lady Gets Herself a Drink.
B.M. MS. Harl. 6563.



(d) A Quiet Game — Probably a Kind of Solitaire.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

the haystack. Threshing, the cheapest form of labour, being independent of weather conditions, was done on the earth floor of the outer barn with jointed wooden flails. The threshers are usually represented as singing at their work (pl. 41 (d)). Treading out by oxen seems to have been unusual. Winnowing was done on windy days, throwing up the fanfuls of corn and shovelling away the heavy fallen grain. Hay was a poor crop, except in water meadows where land could be flooded. It was cut with scythes and raked by hand. It was the lack of hay and the entire absence of root-crops that made the farm stock so scanty, animals that could not be fed through the winter being killed each autumn. Beasts were killed early; pigs (pl. 39 (a)) after they had fattened on the mast and acorns (pl. 39 (b)), sheep (pl. 42 (a)) after the mountain pastures grew thin. The plough oxen, horses and milch beasts were inherded for winter, bedded on bracken.

Sheep (pl. 42 (a)) were very small, like Welsh mountain sheep, their poor quality wool being full of long hairs. A contemporary writer tells how a good shepherd, when killing for the winter salt meat, may judge which animals will best stand the winter by noting upon which "the early frost rime be melted off the fleece, or clings late to a chilled body." When the scab arrived they combated it by infusions of yellow bloom flowers, copperas, and finally, at the close of the century, by applications of tar. This last universal usage gives us

the phrase "despoil good sheep for a haporth-o'-tar." Prices increased during the century, but varied enormously. In some cases the wool was worth twice as much as the sheep. Often the fleece only weighed about three pounds, after eliminating the coarse hair. One winter price is a shilling a head, threepence the skin, ninepence for forty-eight pounds of meat. Wool was sold in *cloves* of seven pounds. A ram (Hurtadi) cost five shillings or three shillings. The average was one ram for thirty sheep. Cheese was made from sheep's milk. Braxy mutton (the flesh of sheep found dead) was eaten, though the tumbril was the punishment for butchers who sold it. The tight, close lamb skins were valuable for use as fur, which accounted for the high price of black sheep. The oily wool near the udders of milch sheep was used as natural lanolin dressing, and is it here or among amusements that we must note rams'-horns tied to the feet for trick-dancing? Cows were small, and milk-yield difficult to estimate. Compared with other commodities cheese and butter were cheap. Women did all dairy work. The head dairywoman was called Deye. Implements (pl. 14 (b), 45) were simple, chiefly wooden pails, cream-pans, plunge-churns (pl. 45 (c)), cheese presses, shaping moulds and storing barrels. Straining cloths (pl. 45 (b)) seem to have been specially woven. Cheeses were small (up to eight pounds in weight) and variously flavoured. Butter was melted and salted for winter.

(a) Grotesque Monkeys Playing at School, Books, Benches and a Birch-rod.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(b) A Performing Horse Dancing to Pipe and Tabor.
B.M. MS. Roy, 20. D. IV.

(c) A Joyous Dance to Fiddle with a Dressed-up Dog.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

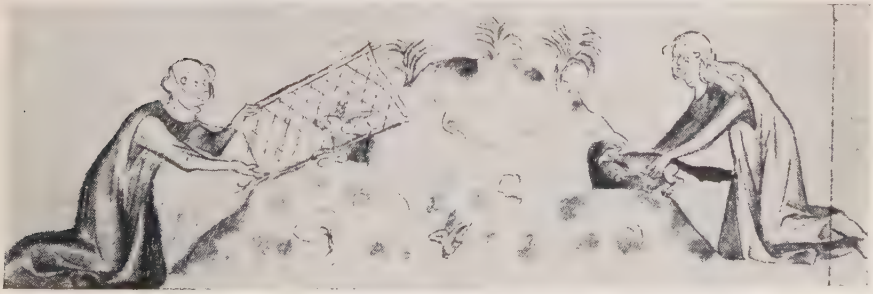
(d) Playing Hand-ball.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. D. IV.

Shooting Hares and Rabbits with a Long-bow.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(a) Ladies Enjoy Rabbit-hunting.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(b) Hawking, Showing Glove.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(c) Courting on Horseback with a Dog Chaperone.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.



(d) Ferreting; Catching Rabbits in Nets.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(a) A Dancing Bear (*Cf.* Plate 29 (a)).

(b) Punch and Judy.

Oxen (pl. 42 (b)) are thus described by a contemporary writer: "An ox-herd feedeth his oxen and bringeth them to the leas and home again, and bindeth their feet with *langhales* and *spanells*, and nigheth and cloggeth them while they be in the leas, and yoketh them and maketh them draw the plough, and pricketh the slow with a goad and maketh them draw even, and pleaseth them with whistling and song to make them bear the yoke with a better will for liking of the melody of the voice. And when the travail is done they bring them to the stall and tie them to the stall and feed them thereat."

Horses.—(See *Fifteenth Century*.)

Donkeys.—Being fond of animals, we regret that in every picture of every donkey in every century a donkey is being whacked.

Poultry (pl. 38 (b), 40 (a)) was abundant and prolific. Geese and ducks were herded on commons. All poultry was turned into stubble to fatten on fallen grain after harvest. With few exceptions, pigeons were the prerogative of the manor house.

Labourers' Wages.—Given twelve as a reasonable multiple of value, Rogers attempts to estimate the income of a first-rate agricultural labourer in modern values. Taking the labourer's money wages before the plague at 7s. 6d. a year, he had also a quarter of corn every nine weeks. If this corn was worth 4s. 4d. a quarter, then the value of his corn would be about £1 4s. 8d. His harvest allowance was worth 3s. more. His wife,

if working 100 days a year, added 8s. 4d., and one boy working also, 4s. 2d. The actual value of the labourer before, during, and after the pestilence is too varied for detailed comment. In a later entry a shepherd's allowance of corn appears as one quarter every sixteen weeks. The cowherd got one quarter every fourteen weeks, and six bushels a year were counted for the farm dog. Women washed and sheared sheep, 1d. for twenty. The price rose in 1339; in one account women got 1½d. a day and were fed also.

Laws fixing Service and Wages.—Extracts from accounts: Sold by the Abbot of Dunstable, one slave and family, 13s. 4d. In 1339, as a gift, one meif (a female slave) with her family and goods. Contrast with "None shall leave his district for extra harvest work, save the hill people," the mountaineers of Wales, Scotland and Yorkshire, who "may go and serve in the southern countries freely"—an indication of the scarcity of labour. These people could be employed by owners whose native labourers were too ravaged by trouble to give the compulsory service. Evil owners could make these people an excuse for evading the statutory wages. In 1349 more laws were passed to reinforce the older feudal service. In the Statute of Labourers, after the Black Death, comes "every man or woman with three score years not living in merchandise, exercising a craft, or having wherewithal he may live, if he be not already bound in service, must serve him who shall him require, and take only the

(a) Cock-fighting.

(b) Dance to the Fiddle.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. Douce 6.

(c) The Wind-organ.
B.M. MS. Facs. 107.

(d) A Peep-show of a Tournament.
(a) and (d) Bodl. Lib.

(a)

(b) The Companionable Harp in Its Leather Case.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(c) A Herdsman's Horn.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(d) A Piping Shepherd.
B.M. MS. Arundel 83.

(a) and (e) Bag-pipes, Drums, Cymbals, Bells, Horns, Stringed Instruments, Hand-organs, Harps, Zithers, and a Dog Trained to Carry Round the Hat.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(a) TREE-PRUNING.

From a Bible Picture MS. at
Holkham House, Norfolk.

(b) CUTTING WITH THE AXE.

From a Bible Picture MS. at Holkham House,
Norfolk.

(a) A Movable Shepherd's Hut, Curiously Like Modern Design.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(b) Gathering Fruit.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Peterborough Psalter

(c) Collecting Bees
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

wages accustomed. If he will not so serve he shall anon be put in jail." If any farm labourer "do leave his present service *without due cause*" (this would not have been written two centuries before) "he shall have like imprisonment and everyone employing such also."

PRICES.—Sarcling (haymaking), etc., 1d. a day; mowing, 5d. an acre—one acre a day's work. Reapers of corn in August, 2d. or 3d. Threshers, 2d. a quarter for wheat; 1d. for barley or peas.

RENTS.—This is still a disputed point between historians. Gradually the feudal rents for service and goods were becoming commuted into money payments, a convenience to both labourer and hirer while labour was plentiful. But after the Plague, or during bad seasons, the owner tried to enforce a return to service payments, and the labourer would have been glad of food rather than money which could not buy it. We append these average rents and suggest research.

For a messuage and a quarterium of land (about 40 acres) rent in money, 1s. a year; to carry dung, at ½d. a day, or 1½d.; to gather nuts, 1½d.; to supply a man in harvest time, or 2s.; to plough half an acre for winter and half an acre for Lent corn, or 7d; to wash and shear sheep, or ½d. a day while the work lasted; to hoe—with food, or pay ¾d. a day; to collect stubble three days till dinner time at ½d., or pay 1½d.; to give one hen, value 2d., or one cock, value 3d.; to find someone to help the thatcher as required, or pay ¾d. The accounts show

how the rent could be divided among the family, the women doing sheep, the boys helping with nuts and thatching.

Rats and Mice.—These are constantly referred to. Their devastating thieving made them the centre of many mediæval stories, and their skill in carrying eggs and dragging home their harvest is noted in contemporary natural histories. Rats were priced at ¼d. apiece; evidently the small close fur was valuable for coats and caps.

Mole-Catching.—In 1325 the payment for catching *old* moles was 2s. a hundred; for *young* moles, 1s. 3d. a hundred. Evidently a conflict of wits rather than agility.

Bees.—Bee-keeping is a craft that changes little. Honey was used for sweetening, for curing meat and leather, and for medicine. The wax was used for hardening candles and for ointments. In 1353 an annual rent of 1 lb. of wax was priced at 6d., and honey, at 3d. a gallon.

Merchants.—1300. "Edward I by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Aquitaine. We have special care for the good estate of all merchants of the kingdom; the lands and countries of the following: Almaine, France, Spain, Portugal, Navarre, Lombardy, Florence, Provence, Catalonia, Aquitaine, Tholosa, Caturlune, Flanders, Brabant and other forreine countries which come into our kingdom of England and *there remain*. That the said merchants may live in quiet and

full security under our Dominion in time to come. All merchants may come and traffic under our defence and protection without paying wharfage, portage, pannage, and in cities and market towns may traffic as freely as the natural subjects. The goods brought may also be taken freely from the country, except wines, or in trafficking with known enemies of the kingdom."

FAIRS.—Up to the time of Edward III the greater part of the wholesale trade and much of the retail had been done at fairs. The policy of this century was to draw trade into towns, making it more staple and continuous.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—"In every market town or fair one weight shall be set in some certain place, and the balance shall be seen empty in the presence of the buyer and seller that the scales be equal, and when the weigher has set the balance equal let him straightway remove his hand so the balance shall remain equal. And throughout all our kingdom and domain there shall be but one weight and measure, and that marked with a mark of our own standard."

But there were tremendous local variations. The following we select as the most commonly staple. The pound, great or little, the great pound being the same as the clove, equalling 7 pounds or half a stone. Later the tod, 28 pounds. Petra, a common measure, seems to have been the standard fixed for any produce—i.e. it could mean 8, 9, 12, up to 20 pounds—but the petra of any one thing in one place was fixed. It might not weigh the

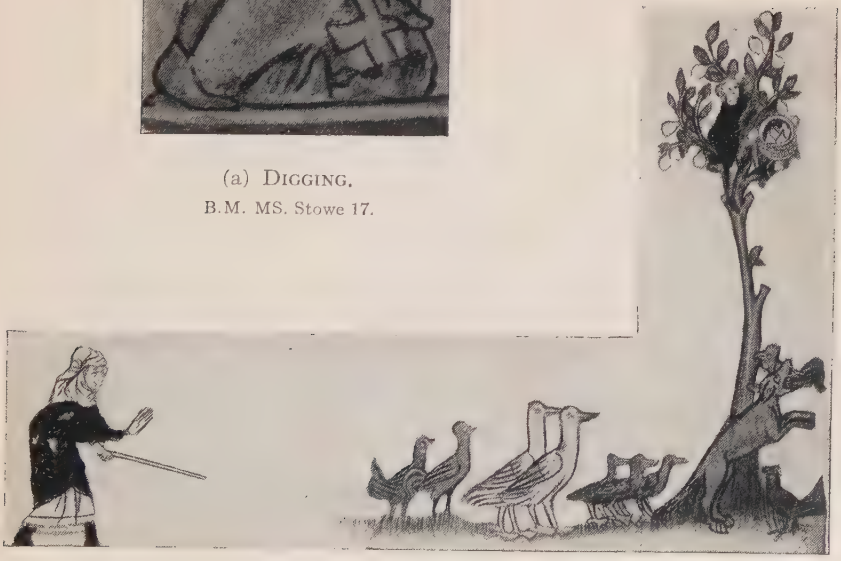
same amount as a petra of another produce, but petras of the same produce were equal. (Probably a relic of the cauldron measurement.) Pisa, half a sack, thirteen stone, twenty-six cloves. The tois is used as the petra for smaller quantities.

MARKET CROWD.—

Many a butcher, baker, brewer, tailor and tinker,
Wool-weavers, linen-weavers, toll-takers in the markets,
Masons and miners and many another craft,
Ditchers and delvers that do their work ill
And spend the livelong day in singing "God save you, Lady Emma,"
Cooks and their men were crying, "Pies hot, all hot!
Good pork and good goose, come, come and dine."
Traverners told the same tale, "A drink of wine for nothing—
White wine, red wine, to wash the roast meat down."

Then the quack doctor, shouting loudly, "Good people! I am not one of those poor herbalists in ill-sewn cloaks selling in front of churches! I will learn you the cure for worms. Is *no* gentleman here going to ask from what worms come? Then I must tell you. They come from cooked-meals-and-from-wine-in-casks-and-bottles, and they GROW in the bodily heat and humours and mount towards your heart—and then you die of a malady called sudden death! Mark you well and *God guard you!* Take off your hats—listen—look! (he shows the herb). (Impressive silence.) Because the poor should be as well cured as the rich I will make you pennyworths, for many a one has a penny who lacks five pounds. Ho! ho!

(a) Digging.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.



(b) The Fox Among the Poultry; the Farmer's Wife Hurries to the Rescue.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(a) Killing and Cutting Up the Pork (*Cf.* Fifteenth Century).
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(b) Beating Down Acorns to Fatten Swine.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII.

(a) A Spinster Feeding Chickens. The Hen (Drawn Gigantic) is Tethered by the Leg.

(b) Stealing Apples. Trouble Coming!

(a) and (b) B.M. MS. Luttrell Psalter.

(a) Harrowing, with an Attendant Bird-slinger.

(b) Weeding in the Growing Corn.

(c) Cutting Corn with Hand-sickles.

(d) Threshing with Flails.

B.M. MS. Luttrell Psalter.

One penny sterling in London, in England, for good bread and wine for myself, and hay and oats for my pack-horse. . . ."

Accounts and Payments.—There were various forms of bonds, sealed notes and written records, customary between wealthy folk. Among the unlettered the tally prevailed. Often tallies were cut on doorposts or in fixed places—but the simplest was the two-stick tally. For example, a tenant had to pay back his landlord for building a new barn. He was to pay one load of hay each year for five years. They took two sticks, laid them together, and for the first load cut a notch across both. The landlord kept one stick, the tenant the other. Next year, the tenant brought another load and his stick, laid the latter beside his landlord's, and again a second notch was cut across both. Thus when the tenant had five notches *matching* the five notches on his landlord's stick, his debt was quit and there could be no dispute.

The tally continued in use till the eighteenth century, and to-day we still remark that one person's report *tallies* with that of another, and children keep "tally" of turns and numbers.

Water-Mills and Wind-Mills (pl. 14 (a)).—The huge grinding stones were often brought from quarries near Paris, unless local stone was suitable; considerable legislation concerning the working was involved, as the mills were the property of the over-lords, who collected a rent of corn ground therein. If sub-let to a tenant, the

over-lord was still responsible for keeping it in repair, as the entire district would be dependent on one mill. Water-mill rights were complicated by water transport.

PRICES FOR WATER PORTAGE.—2 millstones from Ipswich to Oxford Castle, 6s. 8d. 1301.—1 millstone from Cambridge to Grantchester (lifting into cart, 4d. Carriage, 2d). 2 millstones from London to Poole, 8d.; by water to Rye, 3s. 4d.; ship to quay, 1s.; quay to mill, 1s.

II

Trade and Industries

TIMBER.—Periodical sales were announced to the public of neighbouring towns by means of a crier. Sometimes special pieces of timber in certain localities fetched high prices, but ordinarily there was an abundance for all purposes.

IRON (pl. 50).—We gather that some iron was imported from Spain—but not much. It was worth in mass about £9 a ton, and plenty of wood for smelting was still available. 320 quarters of charcoal to Tendal Ironworks cost 23s. 4d. for cartage only. Wrought-iron work was very good and hardware everywhere was of excellent quality, mostly made by the local smiths. Locksmiths of the period were also good, and luckily much of their work has been preserved. New College Treasury has still the wonderful three-bolted locks put in by Wykeham's builders. Here the favoured device of double-locking necessitates the use of four separate keys—a clever idea for insuring that all four key-holders were present or participated in opening the one door.

Approximate prices: Hammer, ¾d.; another, 6d.; bill-

hook, 6d. and 1s.; iron-bound well-bucket, 4½d.; hog-rings, 4d. a hundred; caldarium (cauldron), 11s. 8d.

Slate and Shingles.—Where actual material was cheap and labour in making considerable, the varying cost of production before and after the pestilence was well marked. *Before the Plague:* Tiles, 2s. 9¼d. a thousand; pins for fixing, 1½d. a thousand; *after the Plague:* Tiles 4s. 7¾d. for a thousand; pins, 3d. to 4d. a hundred. Owing to their brittle nature and the bad roads, the price was hopelessly varied. Split stone slates have always been used in the Midlands, around Oxfordshire, one of the most populated parts.

Nails.—Lath nails for the timber and slate buildings were sold by local smiths. Nails are commodities where labour counts more than material, so they are cheap: 10,000, or 1 bag, 10s.

Woodworkers.—The cumbersome handsaw on pl. 46 (a) explains much. Nowadays a tree is sliced into planks as easily as a loaf into sandwiches, and carpenters think in ready-made terms of length and breadth. All our commoner woodwork shows the tyranny of the foot-rule, the multiples of proportion set by sawmills and cargo-stores. Sawyers formed a trade apart. They supplied squared wood, but all the cutting down and finishing was carpenter's work, and frequently done with the adze. We use pieces of wood; they used timber. Also, speaking generally, they did little speculative work, most woodwork being done to order for special requirements. The

(a) Shepherds in the Fields; Bagpipes as Usual.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Heures de Milan.

(b) A Powerful Four-ox Plough.
B.M. MS. Luttrell Psalter.

(c) The Hand-sowing of Grain; the Dog Scares the Crows.
B.M. MS. Luttrell Psalter.

(a) The Windlass.
B.M. MS. Facs. 175.

(b) Inclined Pathway with Mason Stone-cutting.
B.M. MS. Roy. 15. D. III.

(c) Plank-cutting with the Adze.
B.M. MS. Roy. 15. D. III.

(d) Scaffold, Inclined Plane and Plumb-line.
B.M. MS.

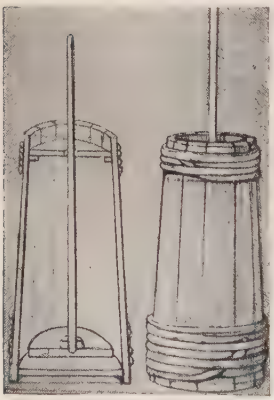
(a) Brick and Tile Making.
B.M. Huth. Add. MS. 38122.

(b) A Tent with Loaves Exposed for Sale.
Bodl. Lib. Oxford. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(c) Varied Building Operations; Note Pulley and Ladder.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Psautier, Paris, B. Nat.

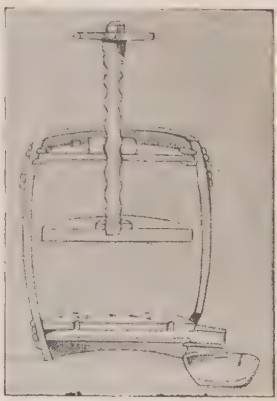
(a) Crushing Apples in a Stone Trough.
For MS. Illustration v. Pl. 14 (d).

(b) Straining Juice Through a Cloth.



(c) A Plunge-churn, with Section Showing Working.

(d) The Press.



(e) Section of the Press, Showing Interior Construction.
For MS. Illustration, v. Pl. 14 (b).

Redrawings from various sources by D. Hartley.

architectural work of this century seems especially good, as was some of the wooden figure carving; this was to develop wonderfully in the following century. In detail the woodwork is heavy, but not cumbersome, and sound in construction. The roofs and partition work must be considered architecturally. Furniture (pl. 8 (d), 9 (a), 70 (a), (b), 71 (c)) was adequate, with large chests for storing in and sitting upon. In many the end pieces were continued downwards, forming two solid legs, one at each end. Smaller chests had lift-up tops, and were used as chairs. You put your property inside and then sat down upon the lid. There were hawk-perches and clothes-hangers against the wall; where these were enclosed with wooden panels they made cupboards; in tables, especially the daïs tables, the trestles would have become two solid legs fixed one at each end, rather far in towards the centre.

Moulding was simple and the linen-fold panelling very popular.

Smiths.—There was at least one to every community. They made all farm implements, the material being usually supplied by the bailiff. Obviously, therefore, the smith was an artisan working to order, though there was a gradual increase in contract work; for example, the smith undertook the shoeing of all horses for a community for a year, supplying his own material. This indicates the gradual accumulation of capital; the smith was probably becoming an independent and reasonably well-to-do householder.

PAINTERS (see *Twelfth Century*).—New College paid £1 13s. 4d. for a new canopy for the altar and for painting an angel at the door of the church frequented by its tenants in Aldgate.

PAPER.—This was known in England. Friar Gaspar de Cruz reports it from China—made of silk and rags and tree-bark. We believe it was occasionally used for light-weight correspondence, but parchment of good quality was comparatively cheap, and was the general usage.

WOOL.—We find various textiles: coarse canvas, perhaps a mixture of hemp and wool, used for mill sails, winnowing fans, sacks, woolpacks, trappings, harness packs, and horse-bags. A curious loose-woven fabric was used for chapel windows to break up or disperse the wind, also for packing fish, and conveying garden seeds. A special woven cloth, perhaps woollen or linen, was made for dairy use, and for cheese-making.

CLOTHING FABRICS.—There were various sorts of woollen clothing fabric, sometimes classified by their dye, thus: Bluet, 4s. a yard, seems to have varied in quality. Blanket (blanchet), the last and cheapest being undyed, or sometimes russet (said to be favoured by the Lollards), 1s. 7½d. per yard. Witney specialised in blanket cloth, from 1s. upwards. Other cloths were known variously as kerseys, turetin, murray, burell, rosete, taffeta, buckram. A camelin de Tripoli, a fabric supposed to be made from camel's hair, seems to pre-date Jæger, and was

extremely expensive. Though comparatively expensive cloth was used lavishly. The robes of the Warden of Merton needed ten yards.

Linen.—Eight ells were required for a surplice; 2½ yards for a shirt, at 4d. the ell; table linen was cheaper (1s. 8d., 1s. 10d., 1s. 4d., according to size), but doubled in price during the Plague. Ireland made good linen. Candle wicks were of linen, though later cotton was imported from Sicily for this purpose.

Silk was very expensive—£1 8s. 1½d. for a silk lining, but then it would be thick; sewing silk, 1s. an ounce.

Carpets were only used as rugs and blankets; two pairs, three yards long, 4s. There would also be variously made wall-hangings.

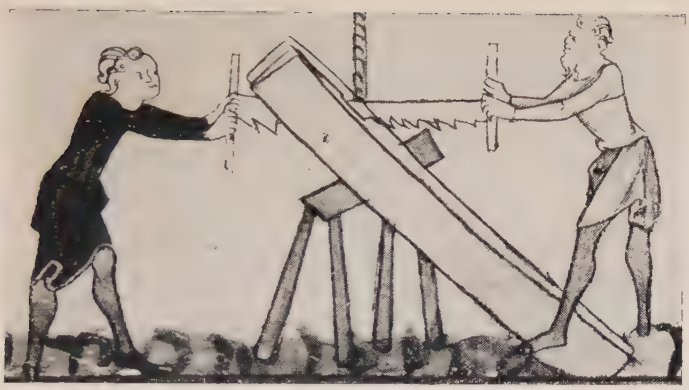
Clothmaking, from thread spinning to selling, has always lent itself to—perversion. "My wife," says Piers, "was a weaver—woollen cloth she made. She spake to her spinner 'to spin it soft'—and paid on overweight also. Then I faced the drapers to learn my other lessons: to draw the edges out, that the flannel might seem longer, among the rich striped cloths. I learned another lesson: threaded them with pack-needles, fastened them together, put them in a press and bound them down therein," till twelve yards was stretched out to thirteen! Where the cloth sales involved foreign trade the legislation is too intricate for these notes. Spinning and weaving their own clothing was a household occupation through all the earlier centuries. The more general use of the

spinning wheel was the one noteworthy development at the end of the fourteenth century.

Textiles.—The important wool trade was the subject of much legislation. In Ordinances of the Staple, we find laws against "damages and grievances happed unto the merchants of our realm upon occasion of the merchants buying wool within our realm and conveying it into the provinces of Flanders, Artois and Brabant." The ordinance provided remedy by causing the wool fells to be carted "for sale to certain fixed staples assigned," thus enabling cloth-workers and common folk to keep some hold over enough wool for their own needs. Shropshire wool was worth twice as much as that of Westmorland, Cumberland and Derbyshire. Leicester wool was worth more than either. Warwickshire wool was also good.

Glass.—This was certainly used in the "decorated" (traceried) windows of churches and monasteries, more rarely in smaller dwellings, being prohibited by transport difficulty as much as by price. It seems to have been carted on the backs of walkers, in modern sandwich-man fashion. Such a glass-carrier setting out is shown in a glass-blowing picture of the fifteenth century. Thin sheets of horn were sometimes used instead of glass. The thick bubble-filled, unevenly coloured glass of this century is often glorious in colour, but must have been too dark for ordinary use.

Fish (pl. 46 (c), 47).—Very dear, and the price of nets and fishing tackle was high. Ropes and nets were



(a) Sawyers at Work; a Trade Distinct from Carpentry.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(b) Clearing Out a Water-course.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(c) The Lady Fishmonger Does a Good Trade.
B.M. Facs. 183/6.

(a) Hauling in the Net; a Mixed Bag.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(b) Fishmonger or Cook Chopping up Fish.
Bodl. Lib. Oxford. MS. Douce 6.

(c) The Fisherman has Luck.
B.M. Facs. 100.

A New Dependant.
Redrawn by D. Hartley.

(a) Sappers at Work, Undermining the Castle Wall.

For MS. Illustration v. Pl. 75 (b).

(b) Spinning; Unending and Always Needed.

Redrawings from various sources by D. Hartley.

tarred. The most enterprising fishermen were those of the Hanse towns. Yarmouth was the chief fishing port. Piscaries were valuable property. Every monastery and household of importance owned fishponds. It is said, though the difficulties make it incredible, that travelled monks brought back and naturalised our present grayling, carp, and trout. Salting and drying were part of a fishmonger's work. The following fish were eaten, those in italics being considered specially delicious. Herrings (red and white), hake, salmon, haddock, halibut, *porpoise*, *eels*, ling, *conger eel*, sturgeon, cod, dogfish, mackerel, *lampreys*, oysters, mussels, trout, perch, barbel. Eels were sold by the stick of 25. Pike were somewhat rare (they would fight so in the piscaries!). Herrings, variously 14 a penny, to 7d.

III

The Household

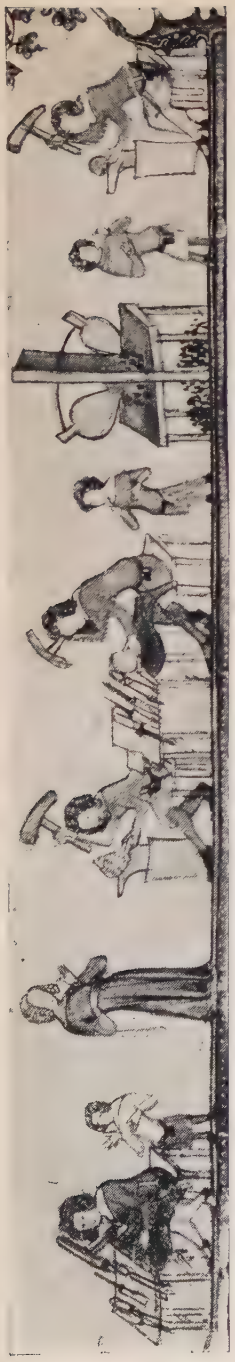
(Plates 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 (a), (b), 13, 15, 16)

Children.—Peasants' children worked on the land when old enough, and might be educated at one of the institutions mentioned under "Education." The children of important households, or manor houses, were frequently sent to other households to school, or rather, for education—a relic of the old hostage ideas (see earlier century). Beyond the usual "school-child" records and the inevitable birch-rods, throughout this century, we have found nothing but gentleness for children.

Babies.—

> . . . With him trips his wife,
> Light as a jay and jolly seemed her life;
> The cradle at her bed's foot close she set
> To rock or nurse her infant in the night.
>
> (Pl. 9 (a), 15 (a).)

And a mediæval nurse "cheweth meat soft for it, and when it hurteth itself 'kisses the place to make it well,' and when she would have it sleep, she singeth to it low and crooningly."



(a) A Metal-worker's Shop. Note the Attendant Apprentices.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(b) A Blacksmith with a Leather Apron.
B.M. MS. Harl. 6563.

(c) Blacksmiths and Bellows.
B.M. Facs. 107.

(a) Stone-carving.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII.
Queen Mary's Psalter.

(b) Incising a Monumental Slab, with Interested Spectators.
B.M. Addl. MS. 10292.

(c) The Dyeing Industry.
From a Bible Picture MS. at Holkham House, Norfolk.

(a) The Smith at His Anvil.
B.M. MS. Arundel 484.

(c) Cutting the Vaulting of an Elaborate Altar-canopy while Women Place the Cloth.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(b) Stone-cutters at Work on a Design.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII.
Queen Mary's Psalter.

THE INTERIOR OF A MUNICIPAL TREASURY.

V. and A. Museum. Painted Book Cover from Municipal Treasury, Siena.

School Children.—Kindly Chaucer gives little Lois an astrolabe. "Little Lois, my sonne, I have perceived well by certain evidences thy ability to learn science touching numbers and the portions. Therefore have I given thee a sufficient astrolabe for our horizon, compounded after the latitude of Oxenforde. . . . Thy tender age of 10 years to conserve, I will show thee under light rules, and naked words in English. For Latin ne canst thou construe but smal, my littel sonne."

Households (three varieties).—The feudal castle, described by contemporaries (see Froissart), conveys the idea of a large indeterminate hotel, centring about one family. The proprietor held the undisputed position of absolute owner, using it as an extortionate despot, a benign providence, or a mixture of both. The smaller households had a similar ruling on a smaller scale.

The following is a list of the effects of a bailiff of average wealth living in Oxfordshire. Mattress (probably straw), 1s.; two coverlets, 7s. and 5s. apiece; six sheets, 4s. each; counterpane, 4s.; red coverlet, 2s.; red gown, 8s.; blue gown, 4s.; russet tunic, 1s. 6d.; padded seat cover, 1s. 3d.; various napkins, cushions, etc.; 2 glasses, one with silver stand, 7s.; chest, 3s.; knife, 1d.

Average Prices.—Saucepan, 1s. 10d.; basin, 2s. 8d.; kitchen bellows, 5d.; knives, 4¾d. to 7d.; larger carver, 1s.

Feasts.—In castles the great ceremony of the day was the meal in the hall. At the high table sat the owner and family (pl. 4, 5) along three sides of the

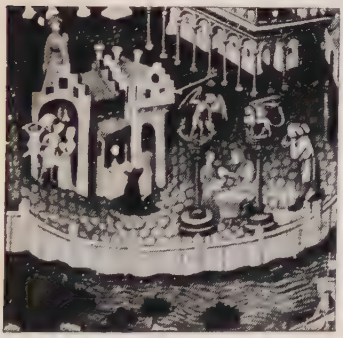
table, so that they faced their people at the lower tables.[1] The household gathered in the main part of the hall, seated at removable trestle tables. In a well-managed establishment the fire burned well, the floor rushes were fresh, jugglers performed, and storytellers told their tales in the open spaces between the tables. Squires turned out quarrelsome dogs, and the folk enjoyed themselves, ate a hearty meal, and did not make too much noise. It was a time for speeches, for orders and "notices" to be given out, a time when it was often possible for an underling to get into direct touch with the ruler of the estate, to make supplication for a special favour, to deliver a present or a message, and "watch his over-lord's face as he received it!"

The lost good of the feudal system was its possible personal interest and sense of individuality. It was a sad day when private comfort ended this daily ceremony and made Piers Plowman cry: "Miserable is the hall where lord and lady will not sit; now have the rich a rule to eat by themselves, in a private parlour, or in a chamber with a chimney, because of the poor in the hall."

EATABLES.—There were laws against too many courses at table. Piers gives us an idea of the peasants' diet: "I have no penny, pullets for to buy, neither geese nor

[1] Occasionally we find a crowded table overflowing around the two ends, but it was disliked, and the space directly in front of the over-lord was always left open.

(a) A Display of Manuscripts on Reading Desks.
B.M. MS. Roy. Cott. Tib. A. VII.



(b) Small Shops (One a Butcher's). Note the Apple-seller and Water-carrier.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(c) Counting Money.
B.M. MS. Roy. 7. E. VII.

(d) A Shop Selling Polished Circular Mirrors.
B.M. MS. Roy. Cott. Tib. A. VII.

(a) City Scenes and Houses: Welcoming Travellers.
Bodl. Lib. Oxford. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(b) The Water Front of a Fourteenth Century City; the Illuminator's Idea of Venice.
Bodl. Lib., Oxford. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(a) Travellers: Light Luggage Slung Across Their Saddles.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(b) A Dog-cart on Rough Ground.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(c) A Walled City, with Troupe Dancing to Pipe and Drum.
B.M. MS. Luttrell Psalter.

(a) A Traveller with Staff and Wallet and Two Large and Lively Dogs.
Bodl. Lib. Oxford. MS. Douce 5.

(b) The Lady Lifted to His Saddle-bow.
B.M. Addl. MS. 38117.

(c) Foot-travellers with Heavy Loads.
B.M. Addl. MS. 38120.

pigs, but I have two green cheeses, a few curds and cream, an oat-cake, two loaves of beans and bran baked for my children; yet I say, by my soul, I have no salt bacon, no, nor eggs to make collops, but I have parsley, leeks, and many cabbages, and eke a cow and calf, and a cart mare to draw my dung afield while the drought lasted; and by this provision we must live till Lammastide; by then I hope to have harvested my crop, then I get dinner as it pleaseth me well."

Every available herb and salad in the garden was used, but the dishes were not yet excessively bespiced. Most of the simpler dishes have their modern counterpart: mutton broth with onions and barley, baked beans and bacon, brawn, ham and eggs, omelettes with chopped parsley, broiled fish and sauce, soused herrings, roast meat and mint, roasted birds and bread sauce, baked apples and milk puddings; they also had hard pears stewed soft in syrup of honey and a little vinegar, eaten with cream,[1] watercress, cheese, salt butter and oatcake, and if you know Froissart's description of the Countess of Salisbury, you will understand why the Fellows of Merton sent her a box of gingerbread, costing 4s. 2d. Chinese ginger was a greatly favoured sweetmeat.

Prices.—Raisins, 2¾d.; figs cheaper, 2d. per pound; currants, 2¾d.; dates, 3d.; pomegranates, occasional and costly; candied orange peel, very dear; rice, 1½d. per

[1] This dish is spoken of with reverence to-day by members of a certain college in Cambridge.

pound; sugar, 2s. (but sold so variously and under such strange names we have difficulty in locating it).

Drinks.—Ale, cider, perry, wines and mead, varying from barley-water to strong brew.

Cats.—Contemporary description: The cat is "swift, pliant, and merry in youth, and is a right heavy beast in age and full sleepy . . . and in time of love is hard fighting for wives, and one scratcheth and rendereth the other grievously with biting and with claws, and maketh a rueful noise and a gasteful when he proffereth to fight with another."

Lights (pl. 4).—In winter, Bartholemeus writes: "Have plentiful light of candles, pricketts, and torches at the table, for it is a shame to sup in darkness, and perilous also for flys and filth; therefore chandeliers, lanthorns and lamps are necessary." Nevertheless, the Knight of the Tour Landry warns his daughter against being unattended at supper because of the fitful light and dark places of the hall.

Gardens.—These were planted close to the buildings, on the sunny side of the walls within monastery buildings, or enclosed in a sturdy little fence of their own, near some smaller household. Though small, they were good, and the gardener's craft increased mightily. The kitchen garden was all important, little space being wasted on inedibles. Roses, violets, etc., were all eaten, chopped up and stewed. Every kind of savoury herb growing was used lavishly, often medicinally; sage, thyme, saffron,

anise, rosemary and many others. Among vegetables were onions, leeks, peas, kale, cabbage, mercury, lettuce, nettles, watercress, etc.

In the apple-yards grew coster or custard apples (a word left to-day in costermonger). Sour crab apples were crushed to make verjuice, that sharp sauce serving in mediæval cookery as lemon juice does to-day. Pears were various—some hard, for stewing, some soft. *Wardons* were always spoken of with proper reverence and priced separately. Damsons were rare, cherries plentiful. Vines were common in the south.

Flower gardens, with their turf-covered seats and shady walks, had their privy playing places, arbours of cut privet or yew. Probably many of the patches of wild-flowers we come upon suddenly owe their origin to these early, lost gardens. We know the herb robert was a garden geranium in those days, and the corn-poppy, blue scabious, and many others grew beautifully and were better loved in a fourteenth century garden.

Clothing.—After pestilence, famine, or murrain among sheep, the peasants frequently had too few clothes to legislate about. As the pictures show (pl. 1, 2 (a), 5, 6, 7, 8 (a), (b), 64 (c), 65) this century brought the beginning of that fantastic costume developed during the next. The one aim seems to have been originality at any cost, anything foreign or eccentric.

> Maintainance thyself after thy rent
> Of robe and eke of garment,

Poyntis and sleeves be well sittande,
Right and straight upon thy hand.
Of shoes and bootes, new and fair,
Look at least thou have a pair,
And that they sit so fetisly
Those unlettered may utterly
Marvel, since they sit so plain,
How they come on or off again!
Wear streight gloves, with aumenere
Of silk; and always with good cheer
Thou buy—if thou have richness—;
If thou hast not, then spend the less;
Always be merry, an thou may—
But waste not thy good alway
Have hat of flowers, fresh as May,
Chaplet of rose of Whitsunday—
Of such array the cost is light.
"Thy handies wash, thy teeth make white,
And comb thy head right jollily;
Fard not thy visage in no wise,
For that of love is not emprised,
For love does haten, as I find
A beauty that is not of kind."

Furs.—The Knight of the Tour Landry speaks: "Fair daughters, I praie you that ye be not the furst to take new shappes and gises of array of woman of strange country." The same knight describes a dress furred with ermyn and miniver, and a fur gown, fur collar, shoes and coats, all with the fur outwards. Choice furs came from the Hanse towns in the Baltic, which traded sheepskins, lamb skins, and rabbit skins, the latter costing 1s. 1d. the dozen. There were also rat skins and mole skins.

A Curiously-drawn Horse-litter; Little Room for the Lady.
B.M. MS. Roy. 16. Gr. VI.

(a) Dignity and Impudence.
B.M. MS. Arundel 83.

(b) A Winter Coat, Warm Gloves and Heavy Staff.
B.M. MS. Arundel 83.

(c) Hawking; the Monkey is a Caricature.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(d) A Blind Beggar and His Dog.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV.

Model of a Fourteenth Century Ship from the Science Museum, South Kensington.

Note forecastle, poop and steering oar.

(a) A Monk Walking.
B.M. MS. Roy. Cott. Tib. A. VII.

(b) A Poor Old Creel Carrier.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. Douce 5.

(c) Ships in Harbour, and Putting Out to Sea.
Bodl. Lib. Oxford. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

Black and white lamb skins arranged in diamonds and chequers made a seemly device. Ordinary fur linings cost 10s. to £1; a miniver hood, 20 skins, 12s. 4d.

Jewellery.—Rings, popular but expensive pieces of jewellery, were given as presents. They were of no great significance, and sometimes served as seals, though the regular seal rings belong to a later century. Brooches and buckles were large, and jewelled girdles and fasteners were used for the gowns. Gems were sewn on to the headdresses. All jewellery was popular, and big.

Toilette.—Soap was made by each household from soda, potash and grease. 1¼d. per lb. was an average price. It may have been used for sheepwashing as well as for the laundry. It also figures in medicine. An interesting item is the soap used for greasing central shafts of corn-grinding mills.

Soap-boiling was already a trade, and soap of various kinds was bought and sold. Toilet soap was made in mediæval "still rooms," according to personal fancy. This sort of soap is usually pictured in wooden bowls, so was probably soft and scented with herbs.

IV

Travel and Transport

(Plates 56 (a), (b), 57, 58)

Ships (plates 60, 61(c), 62, 76 (b), 77 (a)).—The full notes and records of voyages in the thirteenth century show the resource and courage of the coast-line sailor. To negotiate lords, ladies, ironclad knights, horses, victuals, and all the impedimenta of a mediæval army into small wooden ships, sail them down channel, across the Bay of Biscay and up the Mediterranean Sea to Jaffa (frequently coping with pirates en route) was good training in shiplore —on the practical side—and the more we study the heavy steering oars (pl. 60), the curiously stepped mast (that came down bodily when required to lower sail!), the more we realise that sailors are a race apart. Actually they lacked scientific knowledge rather than skill—as their maps show. It was the North Sea fishers and whalers who continued the sea tradition during this century—and we append an interesting record to show individual enterprise.

Anno 1360—a friar of Oxford, being a good astronomer, went in company with others to the most Northern

(a) Carpenters Erecting a House Frame-work (for Noah's Ark) on a Ship's Hull.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(b) Shipwrights Fitting the Sheathing on to a Ship's Ribs.
B.M. MS. Roy. 2. B. VII. Queen Mary's Psalter.

(c) A Small Boat; Gang-plank, Furled Sail, Steering Oar (*Cf.* Pl. 60).
B.M. MS.

(d) The Fleet Trims Sail to Make the Harbour Entrance.
B.M. Facs. 183/2.

(a) Blessing the Churchyard with Holy Water.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Heures de Milan.

(b) A Ceremony During Mass; Probably the Profession of Some Benedictine Nuns.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Heures de Milan.

(c) Planting a Cross at the Cross-roads.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(a) A Lively Dispute Among the Learned.
B.M. MS. Burney 275.

(b) The Maimed and Hurt Seek the Aid of the Church.
B.M. MS. Roy. 16. Gr. VI.

(c) A Cardinal Preaches Before Royalty.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(a) Baptism by Immersion, by a Bishop.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(b) Literally "Sitting Under" a Popular Preacher.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(c) Priest and Acolyte Meet a Couple Outside the Church; Possibly a Wedding.
Bodl. Lib. Oxford. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

islands of the world. "There leaving his company together, he travelled alone, and purposely described all the Northern Islands, with the indrawing seas; and the record thereof at his return he delivered to the King of England. It is to be noted that from the haven of Lynne, in Norfolk, to the N. Island is not above a fortnight's sailing with an ordinary wind, and hath been for many years a common and usual trade."

Transport Roads.—In the previous century highways between towns had been enlarged and cleared on either side, so that "there should be nowhere a man could lurk to hurt 200 ft. either side o' the way"—but some highroads were only worn bridle-paths. Horses and carts (pl. 56 (b)) used them with difficulty—and the main transport was done by packhorse trains (pl. 56 (a)). Any ordinary traveller took a packhorse for his luggage alongside—and walkers took a well-loaded donkey with them.

A system of trade routes probably brought regular supplies of goods and pedlars to most of the larger households, and speeds and prices for letters and goods can be studied in these notes.

Water transport was, of course, very important. Nearly all rivers and waterways, except the mountain torrents, were put to use, and much later the canals followed several of the older transport routes very accurately.

"Transport of a clock (delicate ware), London to

Oxford, 2s. The Queen's holiday luggage from Leighton Buzzard to Bercamstede employed two men, one cart, and four horses. The journey of a boy with letter from Oxford to Gamlingay, 6d."

V

Church (Plates 63–66, 67 (b), (c)), Education (Plates 67 (a), 68), and Science

CHURCHES.—The grey, cold churches of to-day, standing aloof and often locked, give no impression of their former position in village life, when their pillars were gaily painted as a child's scrap-book with all manner of pictures; the roof pale cream and clean, with gold-eyed gargoyle faces peering down, walls blue, with golden spots, green rushes freshly strewn upon the floor. Then imagine one half the village holding a vociferous argument in the porch, while the other half rehearses some very amateur theatricals up near the chancel. In private chapels, or those of monasteries and convents, there may have been less traffic, but no less pageantry and show. Piers Plowman rails against the degenerate clergy, but not against the church itself, the ploughman's own noisy and loved meeting-house. Realize the colour and the tumult, remember also that the sweetest and tenderest of our old carols date from this century.

Friars, Pardoners, Parish Priests.—

Look, there's a pardoner preaching like a priest;
A Papal Bull he brought sealed by the Bishop;
He can assoil them all, a fasting falsehood and broken vows.
The simple fools believed him, loved his words,
Came and knelt and kissed his Bull . . .
If the Bishop were holy and worth both his ears,
He would not send his seal to deceive the people;
Some parish priests complain to the Bishop
The parish was poor since the great Pestilence,
Praying for licence (permission) in London to dwell
And sing Masses for souls for silver is sweet.

Contrast the above with Chaucer's "Country Parson."

A good man was there for religion,
And was a poor parson of a town,
But rich he was of holy thought and work.
He also was a learned man, a clerk
That Christes Gospel truly wolde he preach,
His parishioners devoutly would he teach;
Benign he was and wonder diligent,
And in adversity full patient . . .
And Christes lore and His apostles twelve
He taught, and first he followed it himselve.

Funeral Expenses in 1384 at Oxford were: shroud, 10d.; bier, 3d.; candle, 4d.; pulsatio cam panæ (bell toll), 2d. Shrouds were more usual than coffins, though we read of the clerk—

He is now dead and nailed in his chest—
I pray to God to give his soule reste.

Stone coffins were also used occasionally.

(a) Reading the Burial Service Over a Monk in His Shroud.
B.M. Addl. MS. 18198.

(b) Swinging the Censer.
Bodl. Library Oxford. MS. Douce 118

(c) The Scribe (see Other Centuries).
B.M. MS. Roy. 16. G. VI.

(d) A Bishop Gives the Tonsure.
B.M. Addl. MS. 38120.

(a) Medical Students.
B.M. MS. Roy. 17. E. III.

(b) Confession.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(c) The Elevation of the Host at Mass.
B.M. MS. Harl. 2897.

(a) Scholars Learning from Books; the Master Prepares for a Caning.

Bodl. Lib. Oxford. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(b) A Monastery School; the Master Gives a Tap.

B.M. Facs. 227.

(c) Students at a Lecture

B.M. MS. Roy. 6. E. VII.

(a) An Early "Gooch" Splint for an Injured Foot.

(b) Examining a Sprain.

(c) The Nurse is Ready to Wash the Sleeping Patient.

(d) Blood-letting (see Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries).
B.M. MS. Sloane 1977.

PILGRIMS.—

Pilgrims and palmers plighted together
To seek St. James in Spain and St. Peter in Rome;
They went on their way with many a wise tale,
(And had leave to lie all their life after.)
I saw some of them.
Oh, they had gone the pilgrimage,
Each told a different tale—every one a lie;
Great long lumbers that were loath to work,
Clad in copes to be known for hermits,
To pass for hermits and have an easy life—
Friars? All the four orders I found them there
Preaching to the people and glossing the Gospel
For their own profit.

EDUCATION (Schools, pl. 67 (a), 68).—Knowledge of reading and writing was uncommon, though a lad born on the land might obtain an education free; and later the more personal freedom made it possible for that education to be paid for in schools—a crucial point during the Revolt. It is a disputed point whether the gradual commuting into money of the various rents and wages made it more possible for the labourer to educate his children. Almost the only schools were those attached to some convent, monastery or guild, or some charitable institution. Anyone wishing to continue his studies almost automatically became a religious clerk, and, once this was accomplished, rich and poor stood comparatively equal chances, for learning knew no rank.

The few folk who were rich and learned could afford

to have books, to travel and visit foreign universities, and to keep learned clerks in their households, or pay learned doctors and scientists to visit them. Lads lucky enough to be apprenticed to a craft, or making it their own through enterprise and industry, might come by a considerable, and very practical, education, through their guilds.

SCHOOLBOY RHYME (see fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth centuries for sequence).

> I hade in coustom to come to school late
> Nat for to lerne, but for a countenance
> With my felaways ready for to debate,
> To jangle was set all my pleasaunce,
> To run in gardens applys ther I stal,
> To gather frutys sparing hegg nor wal,
> To plukke grapus in other menys vynes
> Was more ready than to say mattains.
> Readier cherrystones for to tell
> Than go to church, or hear the sacred bell.

BOOKS.—The pictures in this History are nearly all from fourteenth century books (for their making, see the notes in the *Fifteenth Century*, as the process changed but little); but this century's most typical books are almost too sad to write about; they are the books of the Pestilence, and there are pitifully few left to tell us of a generation who could have made their work so beautiful.

The Black Death swept the crowded monasteries, and the quiet workers saw things too terrible to line in little gilded letters, so it is not the illuminated MSS., but the

rolls, accounts, and records that must make for us the pictures of this century. Very many show the changed handwriting, where others, less skilful, have tried to keep the treasured records unbroken—and failed. Some sad entries are blurred with vinegar stains, hopelessly blotting the pages and cockling the parchment like big brown tears, the tears of a sorrow centuries old—the oldest and most helpless sorrow in the world. In some communities more than half the workers sickened and died. And they were a people who could have drawn such joyous things.

Picture the mediæval life in the Romance of Alexander at Oxford (MS. Bod. 264); the Queen Mary's Psalter (Royal MS. 2 B. VII) and Pope Gregory's Decretals (Royal MS. 10 E. IV) and the Luttrell Psalter; the last three at the British Museum.

Science.—A curious and wonderful mixture of practicality and imagination. They had the faculty for holding very earnestly on to the wrong end of the right stick. Matter was supposed to be compounded of about four elements, which filled all space, and by variously combining produced all substances. Therefore the idea of discovering the combination that would create the gold substance was reasonably hopeful, and made the highroad of scientific progress for several centuries.

VI

Medicine and Surgery

(Plates 69–73)

Our First English Surgeon.—Medical history of this century centres round one John Arderne, a layman, our first well-known English surgeon. It is said he took up surgery during his service in the French wars. He taught as simply and earnestly as he worked, and his followers learnt by heart not the blindly accepted grandiloquence of the ancients, but his own active kindliness; for he taught them gladly. He wrote for them, too; pages and pages of hard-won experience and discoveries, and, the greatest wisdom of all, his own gentle statement, "Nevertheless, do another man as him findeth better."

Many of John Arderne's methods strike one as curiously modern. Of wounds: "Keep clean; they *should* heal without suppuration; where this occurs assist the process by washing, that the wound may heal from the bottom upwards, otherwise do not dress too frequently."

Though operations in pre-chloroform days seem rather brutal affairs, Arderne's practice was fundamentally

(a) Tending the Sick.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Psautier. Paris. B. Nat.

(b) A Good Meal for the Hungry Wayfarers.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Psautier. Paris. B. Nat.

(c) Attempting to Reduce a Dislocated Elbow.

(d) Treatment of a Dislocated Shoulder.

(a) Handing Clothes to the Needy.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Psautier.
Paris. B. Nat.

(b) The Doctor Going on His Rounds.
B.M. MS. Sloane 2435.

(c) Receiving Patients, Who Are Put to Bed.
V. and A. Museum. Facs. Psautier. Paris. B. Nat.

TWO DOCTORS EXAMINE THE PATIENT'S WATER.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(a) Burning Infected Clothing in an Oven.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(b) The Tongue as an Indication.

(c) A Patient Violently Sick.
(b) and (c) B.M. MS. Sloane 1977.

sound, compared with his contemporaries' gradual scrapings and parings. "Drug and 'sand-bag' the patient unconscious, tie up securely; if you must cut, do so boldly; loss of blood is less, and shock minimised. If necessary bathe in warm water to restore temperature, put to bed, keep warm; feed well."

Leprosy.—The number of actual leprosy cases in England is controversial, and many times the disease is confused with cancer, lupus and other skin complaints, often the result of evil food and foul living. The terrible edicts of the Church condemning lepers to deathly isolation are given in the thirteenth century. In this century the single civil edict is in 1346, "decreeing that lepers should be driven out of the cities because of their infection." Otherwise: "they were the afflicted of God" and the centre of so much charitable and religious feeling, that if you had a bad skin trouble, you sometimes called it leprosy for choice, and perhaps got into a leper hospital. The Knights' Order of St. Lazarus had several, and many religious orders had similar charities.

Stipend of a Doctor employed as visiting officer of health to a monastery. Daily, one loaf, one gyst of best beer, and on fish and flesh days to be served from kitchen as one of our own monks. If he sups in the infirmary (night duty implied?) one white loaf, half gyst of beer, one good dish from kitchen. He shall have a good chamber assigned to him, stabling for two horses, with fodder; two attendants also fed with monastery servers.

Payment 40 shillings per annum. We gather he would undertake the monastery and surrounding district belonging to it.

These "resident" doctors were usual in large establishments—and the arrangement seems to have worked fairly well. The poor would get a certain amount of advice and treatment free, and good health among his tenants meant more satisfaction for the landlord and more spare time for the doctor.

The Black Death.—The bubonic plague, known as the Black Death, began in China, spread across Europe to England, in 1348 depopulated Jersey and Guernsey, and came through Melcombe Regis to Devon, Somerset, Bristol and onwards over England. It was carried by the rat flea, and its course followed the trade and pilgrim routes so closely that its dated appearance is actually of use in studying route questions. The symptoms were gangrenous inflammation of the throat and lungs, chest pains and pestilential odour. The carbuncles and glandular swellings, breaking out under arms and in the groin, usually showed first, but did not always develop to full plague. The bad weather, and resultant famine conditions, combined with this plague to make one devastating calamity. Sir Walter Marny bought thirty acres beyond St. Bartholomew's Hospital called Spittal-Croft, and in 1349 more than 50,000 persons were buried there.

VII

Law and Crime

LAWYERS, BAD.—"There wandered 100 in gowns of silks, sergents they seemed and served at the bar; pleading the law for pennies and for pounds, unlocking their purses never for love of Our Lord. Thou madest better mete the mist on Malvern Hills than get a mutter from their mouths, save thou show thy money."

GOOD.—"That spendeth his speech, and speaketh for the poor and innocent—the needy poor that never harméd any. Who comforteth the poor and taketh no fee, nor declareth the law for a lord's love. No devil on his death-bed shall harm him a wit, the Psalter beareth witness. He and his soul are safe."

PRISONS.—Many dark underground rooms exist in old castles; but not even a comprehensive mediæval injustice could have filled every one of them with helpless prisoners. Some were just store-rooms and all had strategic importance during warfare.

VIII

Amusements

(Plates 21–35)

Amusements.—Besides outdoor sports there were various indoor amusements—reading, storytelling and games. It seems to have been much more common for grown-ups to join in the romping children's games of blind-man's-buff and hide-and-seek. Then there was dancing (pl. 30 (c), 34 (b)), singing—not so much studied performances of a few people as jolly rounds and songs. There were, of course, the inevitable spinning, weaving, and sewing—and lots of pet beasties. Feast-days and church holy-days were kept—and there were also

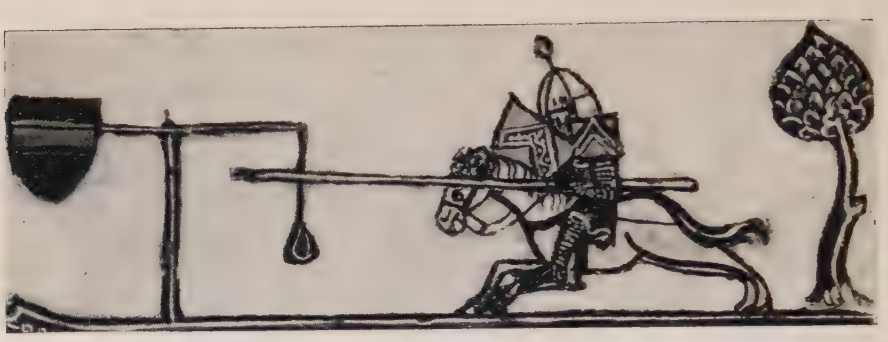
Plays.—Rather strange performances these, and usually performed for the Church, or by work-people in the great hall. They were usually religious, but never dull. Piers Plowman speaks hardly of "Jesters and janglers, Judas' children," but they must have been rather welcome during a long wet week.

Tournaments (pl. 21, 22).—This was the age of chivalry, and the study of the warfare notes will show the enactment of its laws. The tournament was the training

THE SIEGE OF A CASTLE.

A hand-to-hand fight on a scaling ladder thrown against the battlements; the garrison hurl stones from a catapult. Note primitive cannon.

Reconstructional drawing from various sources by George Kruger Gray.



(a) Tilting at a Quintain.
B.M. Facs. 237.

(b) Sappers Mining a Castle Wall.

(c) Prisoners and Cattle Driven in Front of an Army.
B.M. MS. Egerton 1894.

(a) A Troop Riding into a Town Over a Bridge of Boats.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(b) Boarding in a Sea-fight.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

(c) The Knight, in Chain Armour and Surcoat, Bids Farewell.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(a) A Sea-fight at Close Quarters.
B.M. MS. Roy. 10. E. IV. Decretals of Gregory.

(b) Soldiers Looting a House, Smashing Household Goods, and Drinking.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

ground of chivalrous warriors. There the armed knights fought—restrainedly—according to the definite rules of etiquette. Unless there was a dispute of honour to be arranged, they fought to disarm or to unhorse their opponents, not to kill. Remember this when you read of the preliminary skirmish that usually began a friendship between chance-met warriors. Children played at tournaments and battles (pl. 24) as to-day they play at schools and soldiers.

Sport.—Hawking (pl. 26 (a), 32 (b)) was the great sport of the century; everybody who was anybody—ladies, squires, bishops—went hawking as a matter of course. There are fat men and lean men and walkers and riders in the pictures, *all* hawking, and apparently when they were not out doing it they *talked* hawking—we believe that! The birds were usually caught as nestlings or bred and supplied to the gentry through the gamekeepers—by peasants. Well-trained hawks could bring down quite heavy game, and the big wool tassel hung from the hawker's waist was the lure, as, when training, it concealed a piece of "interesting" offal to tempt the hawk back to his owner's wrist. Hence the bird soon learnt his lesson and used it as a landing stage. Thick gloves were worn, as the hawk's gripping claws were sharp.

Hounds for Hunting (pl. 25 (b), 26 (b)).—"Nothing is more busy and wittier than a hound, for he hath more wit than other beasts, and hounds know their own names

and love their masters and defend the homes of their masters and put themselves wilfully in peril of death for their masters."

There were wolfhounds, great danes, mastiffs.

IX

Warfare

(PLATES 74–81)

CASTLES (we recommend students to Violet-le-Duc's *History of a Fortress* and Froissart's *Chronicles*).—Warfare of this century is too intricate for detailed noting. A point to remember is the rubble masonry, which means that once the outer crust of stone was gone, the walls crumbled readily. Thus, defenders kept their walls swept clear, by archers shooting sideways through conveniently arranged slits, or dropping lead or stones from over-hanging ledges above. You could throw into the castle dead horses, stones, smelly sticky messes; fire and messages; or you could undermine your castle—a slow job (pl. 49 (a), 75 (b)). Attackers could head straight for gates or vulnerable points under movable covers, or erect scaffoldings (pl. 74) to bring them above the level of the castle walls—another reason for clearing the castle district of available timber. But though castles could thus be taken by force or strategy, this century saw the inset of the siege warfare which finally reached such extraordinary lengths.

Letter from besieged Calais (found bound to an axe in the water).—"When writing, we were all well and of good cheer, and right willing to serve you; but, right dear and dread Lord, know that though the people are well and of good cheer, yet the town is in sore need of corn and wine and meat, for know that there is nothing therein that has not been eaten—dogs, cats, and horses, so that victuals we can no more find, unless we eat men's flesh. So we have resolved that if we have not succour quickly, we shall sally forth into the open field to fight for life or death. For 'twere better to die in the field with honour, than to eat one another. If remedy be not quickly found, never more will you have letters from me, and the town will be lost and we that are therein. Our Lord grant you a good life and long, and give you the will, if we die, to requite it to our heirs!"

War with France.—In 1359 John, the French king, under pretence of peace, offered to Edward III Flanders, Picardy, Gascony, and other territories that he had spoiled and wasted. For the ratification of which agreement the aforesaid king sent his ambassadors to France; but the Frenchmen gainsaid them in all their demands, whereof the King of England being provoked, prepared his forces to cross the seas, carrying with them Edward Prince of Wales, Henry of Lancaster, and almost all his nobles, with one thousand waggons and carts attending upon them. The king had at Sandwich one thousand one hundred ships exceedingly well furnished, with which

BRONZE EFFIGY OF RICHARD BEAUCHAMP, EARL OF WARWICK, IN ST. MARY'S, WARWICK

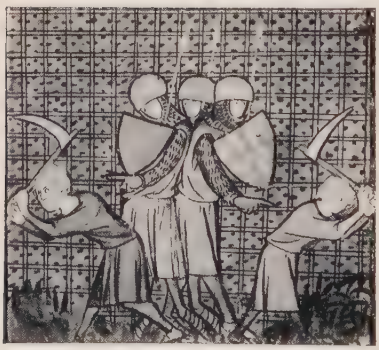
Original drawings by Thomas Stothard, B.M. Print Room.

(a) An Arblast and Trebuchet in Action.
Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264. Romance of Alexander.

(b) The Knight Strips Off His Coat of Mail.
B.M. Addl. MS. 38120.

(c) Going on a Pilgrimage with Scrip and Staff.
B.M. Addl. MS. 38120

(d) Winding Up a Crossbow.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.



(e) Trench-digging Under Military Direction.
B.M. MS. Roy. 16. Gr. VI.

(f) Arming the Knight Before the Tournament.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. D. IV.

(a) Method of Carrying and Winding-up Crossbows.
B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII.

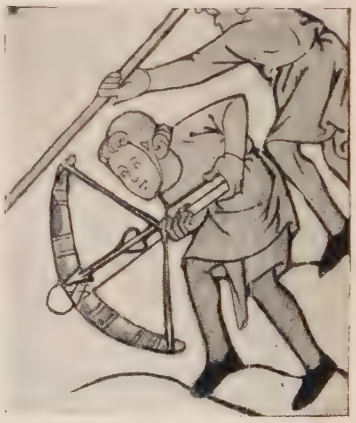
(b)

(b) and (c) Besieging Castles with Scaling Ladders, Slingers and Miners.
(b) B.M. MS. Roy. 20. C. VII; (c) Bodl. Lib. Oxf. MS. 264.

(a) A Trebuchet.
B.M. MS. Stowe 17.

(b) Catapult Versus Arrow

(c) The Crossbow Vigorously Wielded.
B.M. MS. Roy. 19. B. XV.



(d) Bending the Longbow.
From a Bible Picture Book, Norfolk.

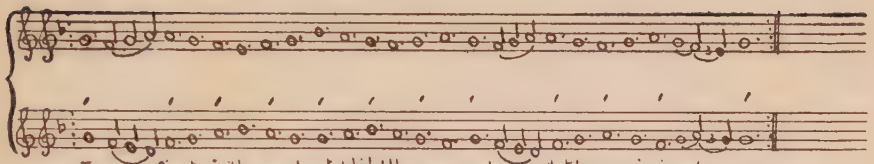
preparations he passed overseas to abate the Frenchmen's arrogance.

SCOTTISH WARFARE.—"Scotsmen are right hardi in wars, for within a day and a night they will drive 24 English leagues, for they are all a-horseback (without it be the tandels and laggers of the host following afoot). Knights and squires are well horsed, and the common folk on little hackneys and geldings. They take with them no carts or chouts, for the difficulties of the mountains that they must pass through. They take with them no purveyance of bread or wine, for it is their usage and observance to pass in journey a good long time on flesh, half sodden, without bread, and drink of river-water without wine."

HISTORICAL CHART, 1300-1400

Date	Rulers of England	Rulers of France	Chief Events	Well-known People (*In order of date of birth*)	Famous Buildings
1300	Edward I	Philip IV			Winchester Choir
1305			Death of William Wallace		Salisbury Tower
1307	Edward II		Suppression of Templars in France	*Hugh le Despenser*, English courtier, 1262-1326 (his son died 1326	
1310					
1313			Death of Piers Gaveston		
1314		Louis X	Battle of Bannockburn	*Robert Bruce*, King of Scotland, 1274-1329	
1316		Philip V		*Roger Mortimer*, Earl of March, 1287-1330	
1322		Charles IV		*Piers Gaveston*, English courtier, died 1312	Choir, Octagon and Lady Chapel, Ely, 1321-49
				Bertrand du Guesclin, French warrior and Constable of France, 1320?-1380	Wells Choir Salisbury Spire Pensburst
1327	Edward III		Flemish weavers settle in Norwich	*John Wycliffe*, English reformer, 1320?-1384	Queen's College, Oxford
1328		Philip VI		*Edward the Black Prince*, Prince of Wales, 1330-1376	
1330				*William Langland*, English writer, 1332?-1400?	
1338			Beginning of Hundred Years' War	*Jean Froissart*, French chronicler, 1338-1410?	
1340			Battle of Sluys	*Geoffrey Chaucer*, English poet, 1340?-1400	
1346			Battles of Crécy and Neville's Cross	*John of Gaunt*, Duke of Lancaster, 1340-1399	
1347			Siege of Calais	*Isabella*, Queen of Edward II, died 1358	
1348			Black Death		
1349			Black Death		
1350		John the Good		*Henry Percy* "Hotspur," 1364-1403	Winchester Nave, 1350-1400
1351			Statute of Labourers		Part of Westminster Abbey Nave, 1350-1430
1356			Battle of Poitiers		
1360			Treaty of Brétigny		
1364		Charles V			
1367			Battle of Nájara		
1370			Storm of Limoges		
1371					Warwick Castle, 1371
1379			English translation of Bible		
1376			Good Parliament. Death of Black Prince		
1377	Richard II				
1378			End of Captivity of Popes		
1380		Charles VI			York Choir, 1380-1400
1381			Peasants' Revolt		Winchester School Bodiam Castle New College, Oxford
1390					
1396			Truce with France		
1399	Henry IV				

Jesu Cristes Milde Moder. (about 1300).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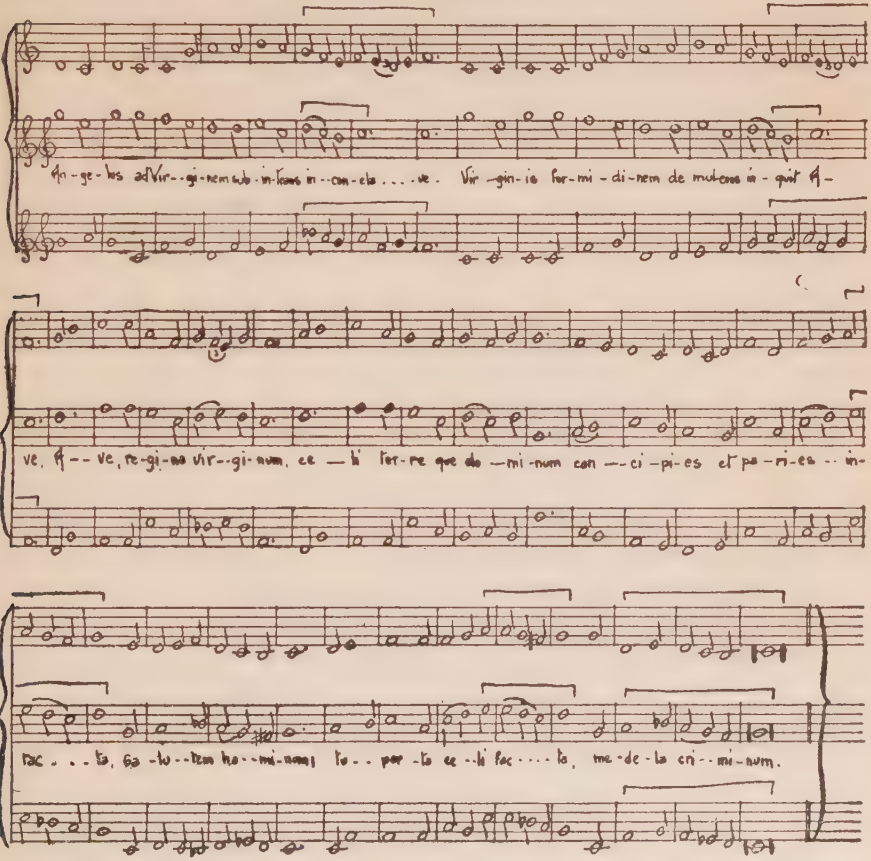
The same . . heng the moder stod . . and bi-held hire childes blud . . . wu it of his wund-es ron .

Angelus ad Virginum (Late 14th c. mentioned by Chaucer).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ve . A--ve , re-gi-na vir--gi-num . ce —li fer-re que de —mi-num con —ci-pi-es et pa-ri-es . . in-
rac . . . ta . Ga-bu--rem ho--mi-nem! fo . . per-ta ce--li fac . . . . ta . me-de-la cri--mi-num .

Model School
914.R
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